BACK PAGE

No holds barred in drug warnings for children

There must be no holds barred when young people are shown the catastrophic effect drugs can have on the addict's body and soul, says Günter Speckmann, a Hamburg customs officer.

He runs classes on narcotics for schoolchildren at the city's customs and excise training college and laboratories. *They are the only ones of their kind in* Germany because he is one of the few people authorised to demonstrate drugs.

Narcotics interest young people, he says. They are keen to widen their range of experiences and ready to run a risk.

Problems at school, the home, education or the environment cannot bear all the blame for the growing number of juvenile drug addicts.

Group compulsion (the herd instinct) and a lavish helping of curiosity are equally responsible, Speckmann says.

"We must be brutally frank to deter the kids from taking the first step. They must be told the tricks the dealers use. Then they stand a better chance of not being led like lambs to the slaughter."

Drug pushers flick tiny heroin pills into half-empty glasses at the discotheque. The kids have no idea what is going on; all they know is that last night at the disco was great.

The next night the procedure is repeated, and maybe once or twice more. By then the kids are hooked, and withdrawal symptoms start to give them trouble.

The dealer steps in and says: "How about it?" Many youngsters jump at the opportunity. They little suspect they are already well on the way to mainlining.

Three shots of heroin are enough to make you physically dependent on the big H. and they already have a head's start.

While agreeing that help for drug ad*dicts is important.* Herr Speckmann feels prevention is better than cure, especially as few junkies are able to break the habit.

Prevention as he understands it means confronting the kids (and their parents and teachers too) with drugs and their repercussions, letting them see, smell and touch them.

It means putting paid to widespread illusions that soft drugs, such as cannabis, are neither harmful nor lead to addiction, he claims.

Recent findings have shown that hashish and marijuana can prove addictive after all, but worse still, they all too often pave the way for hard drugs.

Herr Speckmann runs three-hour courses for school classes in Hamburg and surrounding areas — from eighth grade, or about age fourteen.

Most kids turn up cocksure and with a smug smile on their faces. They go home looking thoughtful, for Günter Speckmann really does bar no holds.

He is authorised to show what drugs there are *and is happy to do so.* He lines them up on the table in front of the class.



Günter Speckmann at school: unveiling the horrors.

First comes the hash, wrapped in coth or foil: Green Turkish, Red Lebanese, Black Afghan and Green Afghan.

Then comes the opium: black blocks of opium, most stamped with a dragon or tiger emblem and wrapped in plastic foil or cellophane, but also available in cubes, capsules, solutions and ampoules.

Then there is heroin, in plastic bags or balloons, in powder or granulated form. Then synthetic drugs, such as LSD, uppers, downers and hallucinogens.

Everyone is given an opportunity to take a sniff at the real thing. Blue, sweet-smelling smoke rises lazily to the ceiling. The first youngsters pull faces, cough, sneeze and turn away.

Hash invariably makes people feel sick or puts them off in one way or another the first time round, yet young people are still eager to get into the scene.

By the time the dealer has confidentially whispered: "That was nothing. Wait until you get a taste of the real thing," it is too late.

Herr Speckmann then explains the substances that are used to make the drugs go further. They include clay, flour, detergent, sugar, strychnine, salt, shoe polish and tea.

He also explains the risk of an overdose. You can't tell in the de[…] what you are buying. You hav[…] on the dealer. If it's an overdos[…] be your last.

His piece de résistance is [a] minute film of the horrors of [...]ey taken at New York hospit[al] film, every foot of it bona fi[de] supplied by New York City he[alth de]partment.

Herr Speckmann also quotes th[e] toll. Last year there were 600 d[…] in the Federal Republic of G[erma]ny — and 60,000 addicts, some [...] years old.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 Mar[ch 1980])



School pressures

Continued from page 13

children are concerned, as Professor Schmidt readily admitted.

Research had not been undertaken for long in what was a young discipline, so there was little or no scientific basis for many methods that were in use.

Functional disorders that are physical in origin stand a better chance of successful treatment, Dr Scholz, a doctor employed by West Berlin education department, said.

His tests had shown that children with physical and mental shortcomings were more likely to suffer from psychiatric disorders too, which called for preventive measures.

Children suffering from hyperkinesia have been found to respond to pep pills, or "uppers." Oddly enough, they make them less restive.

Parents of children suffering from this phenomenon to the extent that it can be considered a complaint will also be relieved to learn that in three out of four cases the children simply grow out of it; it is just part of growing up.

Justin Westhoff

(Der Tagesspiegel, 9 March 1980)

Ministry runs 'day mother' experiment

The "day mother" scheme, [an ex]periment in child-minding sp[onsor]ed by the Bonn Family Affairs Mi[nistry] has been a success, says the final r[eport] published by the Deutsche Jugen[dinsti]tut, Munich.

Trials were conducted in sampl[e loca]tions all over West Germany for [...] six years and a group of children l[ooked] after by their own mothers were [scre]ened for comparison.

Children looked after during th[e day]time by *ersatz* mothers were fo[und to] have developed in much the sam[e way] as those who were cared for by the[ir] mothers.

There were no differences in [...] social behaviour, and the report e[mpha]sises that women from various [socio-]economic categories prove equall[y suit]able as day mothers.

The aim of the experiment [was to] enable the children of working [...] to get a better start in life th[an] might be expected to have done [if they] had to be sent to a home.

During the day the child was [with the] day mother, but did not lose [contact] with his parents or parent.

By 1978 trials were under wa[y in …] communities, from village to [city, in] different *Länder*, with a total 4[…] dren, 400 parents and 220 day m[others].

Each location had 15 to 20 da[y mot]hers, 20 to 40 children and pare[nts and] two educationalists as advisers[…] mothers were paid between DM[…] DM500 a month depending on th[…]

When the trial period expired [...] able organisations were set up [to keep] the scheme going, and the dema[nd for] day mothers remains brisk.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 March [1980])

The German Tribune

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Bundestag pincer attack on Moscow motives

Lübecker Nachrichten

The State of the Nation address to the Bundestag has been part of the New Year routine in Bonn for 12 years, but Chancellor Schmidt's 1980 address differed from its predecessors in one important respect.

It gave pride of place to the international crisis caused by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan because the crisis is inextricably linked with the state of Germany's divided nation.

The clue of thread linking all contributions to the Bundestag debate was anxiety about the further course of world affairs.

Would there be a return to tolerable coexistence on the basis of the balance of power upset by Moscow or would a fateful arms race prove inevitable?

It was an all-day debate and much was said on both sides of the House, but the general impression was one of uncertainty and indecision in the Bundestag.

By virtue of his incumbency at Palais Schaumburg, the Bonn Chancellery, Helmut Schmidt was able to defend his position with ease.

He called for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, solidarity with the United States and continued cooperation with the East bloc.

Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss largely agreed with Herr Schmidt's view of the situation but was obliged to attack the Chancellor because that was what his supporters expected of him.

In a general election year campaigning cannot fail to make its mark on the proceedings of the Bundestag.

Herr Strauss's best performance was a clear and uncompromising analysis of recent Soviet policies aimed, he said, at establishing an unbroken sphere of influence from Afghanistan to South Africa.

The Chancellor's address had nothing at all comparable to offer, and Herr Strauss was right in commenting that Herr Schmidt's speech had been first and foremost aimed at keeping all factions happy in his own party.

Free Democrat Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, had been much clearer and more decisive in his assessment of Soviet policy than had the Chancellor.

Like Herr Strauss, he had no need to bear in mind various wings within his party, some of whom consider that consideration for Soviet interests is conducive to detente.

The Chancellor began his address with a review of 10 years of Social and Free Democratic German policies since the 19 March 1970 Erfurt summit attended by Bonn Chancellor Willy Brandt and East Berlin Premier Willi Stoph.

In his bid to draw up a balance sheet with a profit not even Herr Schmidt could deny that there could be no question of good relations or normality as long as there was a Berlin Wall and would-be refugees were forcibly prevented from crossing the border.

This admission by the Chancellor was better attuned to the realities than deliberate exaggeration of the more gratifying points by a number of fellow-Social Democrats in the course of the debate.

The climate of East-West ties has taken a turn for the worse since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the likelihood is that substantial improvements in ties between the two German states need not be expected in the foreseeable future.

This will be the case even should Helmut Schmidt and East German leader Erich Honecker meet in the near future somewhere in the GDR.

Werner Neumann

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 21 March 1980)

IN THIS ISSUE

A European observer

Simone Veil, Speaker of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, attended the beginning of the Bonn Bundestag session in which Chancellor Schmidt delivered his 1980 State of the Nation address. She was welcomed to the House by Bundestag Speaker Richard Stücklen (CSU) and went on to hold talks with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP) and Minister of State Klaus von Dohnanyi (SPD). She is *here talking with Federal President Karl Carstens.* (Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

The difficult path towards normalisation

Historical processes progress slowly and often with contradictions. They take shape from outstanding events that in reality symbolise matters more than they immediately hasten the process.

Ten years have elapsed since the first meeting between heads of government of the two German states, the 19 March 1970 Erfurt meeting between Bonn Chancellor Willy Brandt and East Berlin Premier Willi Stoph.

Many will vividly recall the scene in front of the Erfurter Hof as East German crowds clamoured for Herr Brandt to appear at the window.

The Chancellor was moved yet anxious to avoid commotion, well aware what dynamite the emotional groundswell might detonate.

The Erfurt summit may not have been the beginning but it has come to symbolise the practical start of what for 10 years has been called the new Deutschland and Ostpolitik.

Measured by the yardstick of emotion-laden expectations it may look as though this revolutionary breakthrough has run to run-of-the-mill, level-headed routine.

Yet normalisation was no more and no less than the dramatic target of policies begun a decade ago, and those who tend to be disappointed (often those who were bitterly opposed to the new policy at the time) need only to ask a single question to assess the outcome. To judge how much has since happened and come to be accepted as the lasting groundwork for Deutschlandpolitik of any kind one need only ask: how else could progress have been made?

Nothing of what has been accomplished can possibly be imagined as no longer being the case. Our could it? Does detente not jeopardise the benefits to be derived from both Ostpolitik and Deutschlandpolitik?

Politics being essentially a matter of relations, only a relative answer can be given to this question. Deutschlandpolitik may on the one hand have established a degree of independence but, on the other, conservation of what already exists represents a tremendous challenge.

In this context alone, let alone in that of a forward-pointing dynamic, the projected meeting of Helmut Schmidt and Erich Honecker could prove of enormous importance, as Willy Brandt, Herr Schmidt's predecessor, was not slow to point out.

How stable is what has been achieved? There has been a well-nigh paradoxical about-turn in the basis on which events have taken place.

The new Ostpolitik and Deutschlandpolitik were launched with a view to including Bonn in a worldwide process of detente that was obviously in the offing.

Nowadays what is at stake is to buttress this policy as far as possible against tension that has arisen between the great powers.

This only goes to show that Deutschlandpolitik has, in relative terms, set itself free from its starting points. At the same time there is a new, twofold risk.

Bonn must *necessarily* be interested in *shielding* the "special relationship" between the two German states from the slings and arrows of trends in world affairs.

But this must on no account be attempted at the cost of allowing an admittedly vital interest to tempt Bonn to estrange itself from its Western allies.

The need to strike this delicate balance has repeatedly been the hallmark of individual stages of Ostpolitik and Deutschlandpolitik.

Substantial transport treaties with the GDR could not be concluded until it was clear that transit traffic to and from West Berlin, the details of which were to be negotiated between Bonn and East Berlin was and remained in the final analysis a Four-Power responsibility.

This was not the only use to which

Continued on page 4

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EEC looks at new blueprint for settlement in Middle East

In the months ahead the European Community aims to export a commodity it has lately been unable to manufacture even for domestic consumption.

The idea is to market agreement on issues that involve clashes of interest, coupled with solutions to complex situations.

At home Britain and France are still waging the lamb war, while the dispute over Britain's net contribution towards the EEC budget threatens to develop into a fully-fledged Common Market crisis.

Yet abroad, as it were, the Nine are busy discussing foreign policy bids in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Fine phrases such as the West's overall concept, joint strategy and the much-vaunted division of labour are evidently not for home consumption in an EEC where national interest prevail.

It remains to be seen whether domestic disputes will in any way limit joint foreign policy leeway. Activities are certainly in full swing.

Hamburg talks follow discussion tour

President Giscard d'Estaing of France conferred with Chancellor Schmidt in Hamburg on his talks in four Persian Gulf states and Jordan.

After touring the Middle East the French leader was keen to discuss the Nine's future attitude on the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian issue.

At the same time Lord Carrington, Britain's Foreign Secretary, was on his way home from Rumania where he had briefed Mr Ceausescu on the European Community's proposal of neutrality for a non-aligned Afghanistan.

The proposed Middle East initiative has a number of points in common with the bid for neutral status for Afghanistan.

In both cases direct confrontation with the Soviet Union is avoided without creating the impression that Europe might want to stay out of the clash between the superpowers.

At the same time the EEC is so complex in structure that drawing up plans in detail will take time, and plenty of it.

Continual consultations between the governments of the Nine are essential, with activities being shared by Britain, France and Germany.

Bonn regards this coordination as extremely useful in maintaining a joint European stand towards both the Soviet Union and the United States.

At the beginning of the Afghan crisis Britain and France, for instance, were poles apart on an Olympic boycott and economic sanctions against the Soviet Union in particular.

Consultations may not have bridged the gap entirely but they have at least masked it, partly by means of Herr Genscher's overall concept.

This concept is intended to prevent Western European governments from departing from the joint policy line.

There was suitable alarm when Britain's Mrs Thatcher looked like resurrecting Whitehall's special relationship with



the United States and unreservedly endorsing the US viewpoint.

France, in contrast, began by tending its special relationship with the Soviet Union, voicing strong misgivings about the US desire for solidarity.

This being the case, Bonn found it difficult to pursue a middle-of-the-road approach to the crisis between the extremes advocated by its two partners in Europe.

Regardless of the Bonn coalition's tenet that East-West disputes ought not to be superimposed on Third World countries, Germany claimed all along that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan was first and foremost a matter of Moscow's ties with the Third World.

Bonn here saw at an early stage a point at which Europe could make a contribution of its own towards answering the Soviet challenge.

The overall concept has so far been most clearly in evidence in the strategic aim of using the non-aligned countries' sense of outrage at the Soviet aggression to strengthen the West's position in the Islamic world and counteract Soviet influence there.

The Arab world would like to stay out of the superpowers' dispute, and this opens up a theatre in which both Britain and France, with their respective political traditions, have a part to play in the division of labour.

Lord Carrington proposed to EEC Foreign Ministers the British plan for neutral status for Afghanistan. They endorsed it in Rome and the plan has since been widely discussed.

M. Giscard d'Estaing as a friend of the Arabs advocated the Palestinian right to self-determination on his tour of the Gulf. The two moves are related.

The conference of 36 Islamic states in Islamabad and the talks held by European politicians with representatives of the Arab world leave no doubt that Islamic support to help bring about a solution in Afghanistan can only be enlisted in the long run if the West plays a part in settling the Middle East conflict in the Palestinian interest.

A number of Arab and Islamic states, Herr Schmidt told journalists in Bonn, regard what they call Zionism as a more serious threat than Soviet expansionism.

The Euro-Arab dialogue, the importance of which he and M. Giscard d'Estaing reiterated in Hamburg, has so far found the Palestinian issue an insuperable obstacle.

Foreign Minister Genscher has lately been reminded of the old adage that there can be a world of difference when the same thing is said by two different people.

For six years Bonn has officially been in favour of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, but a worldwide response was not forthcoming until M. Giscard d'Estaing first mentioned the issue on his Middle East tour.

The right word at the right time and place is clearly regarded in Paris as the fine art of French diplomacy in general and the forte of the current French President in particular.

On 26 May the Camp David deadline expires. By then talks between Egypt and Israel on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza are supposed to have been brought to a successful conclusion.

In London, Paris and Bonn the prospects of agreement being reached in time for this deadline are rated extremely slight.

Even if negotiations between Egypt and Israel achieve results it is doubtful whether the terms will be adequate for a Middle East settlement endorsed by the Arab world as a whole.

It the talks fail, all that will remain as an international guideline on the Palestinian issue is UN Resolution No. 242.

Lord Carrington would like to see this resolution amended to acknowledge the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to include the PLO in talks.

He has told the House of Lords that a lasting settlement must solve the Palestine problem by enabling the Palestinians to take part in talks and so helping them to decide their own political future as they see fit.

In view of the autonomy negotiations still in progress and of the sensitive nature of ties between Germany and Israel Bonn has opted for a more circumspect approach.

But Herr Genscher too is now of the opinion that the time has come for Europe to draft a declaration on the Middle East, given that no-one is banking on the talks between Egypt and Israel achieving results.

"Whatever happens we want to forestall a situation in which crisis looms merely because the targets envisaged by all sides fail to be reached, and this is a point at which Europe can lend a hand," he said.

What is so upsetting is that there are grave doubts who will still be willing to negotiate with whom once the autonomy talks break down and what President Sadat's reaction will be in isolation.

Herr Genscher feels Arab unity must be restored by means of a satisfactory Middle East settlement before the Arab countries can be expected to play a part in stabilising the region threatened by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

A peace settlement must, as Bonn sees it, bring about twofold recognition: recognition of Israel's right to existence and implementation of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

How are the Palestinians to exercise this right? EEC Foreign Ministers are not, as yet, prepared to voice their views on what is clearly a vital issue for Israel.

"That is not something others can decide for them," says Herr Genscher. M. Giscard d'Estaing had not said an independent Palestinian state was the only possible solution either.

It was not up to countries outside the region to submit proposals on this issue. That was for the countries and peoples directly concerned in the conflict to do.

Common Market policy on the Middle East continues to be governed by the 29 June 1977 declaration by the European Council, or summit meeting of EEC heads of government.

In this declaration the Nine reiterated their conviction "that the conflict in the Middle East can only be resolved if the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to effective expression of its national identity is converted into reality, taking into account the need for a homeland for the Palestinian people.

"They are of the opinion that representatives of all parties to the conflict must take part in negotiations, including the Palestinian people in a manner to be determined by consultations between all concerned.

"In the framework of an overall settlement Israel must be prepared to acknowledge the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, just as the Arabs must be prepared to acknowledge Israel's right to live in peace within secure, recognised frontiers."

Former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan voiced public criticism of Bonn, much to the surprise of his German hosts last September, for being the first EEC government to talk in terms of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

But to judge by what he had heard in Bonn, he continued, this commitment did not amount to advocacy of a separate Palestinian state.

He had understood Herr Genscher to mean that Palestinian Arabs had a right to self-determination but that the exercise and implementation of this right required the consent of all concerned, including Israel, if the establishment of a Palestinian state were envisaged.

Mr Dayan claimed to have been assured by Bonn that the German government had no intention of establishing official ties with the PLO. He mentioned this was an assurance "on which we can rely," as he told journalists.

Chancellor Schmidt is less definite now. "Neither yesterday nor today," he recently commented, pointedly refraining from saying whether PLO recognition might come tomorrow.

Vienna decision 'not an automatic trend'

All Bonn government spokesman Klaus Bölling was prepared to say was that the recognition of the PLO by Chancellor Kreisky of Austria was not regarded as an example Bonn might necessarily choose to follow.

A new EEC Middle East policy aimed at an alternative to Camp David will encounter criticism, and not only in Israel.

European understanding of the Islamic Arab countries' position is, according to Chancellor Schmidt, one of the "nuances" or issues on which Bonn and Washington are merely "close together."

In the quest for a new EEC Middle East policy fresh pinpricks within the Atlantic alliance cannot be ruled out.

Angela Nacken

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 March 1980)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Environment party success gives new shape to political landscape

Are the Greens, as Germany's ecologists have come to be known, about to change the political landscape now they have been voted into their first major state assembly?

On 16 March they won six seats in the Baden-Württemberg elections. It was an impressive performance by a mixed bag of conservationists and ecologists, left- and right-wingers.

Baden-Württemberg, with an urban and rural population of about 10 million, was certainly a tougher proposition than Bremen, population 600,000, where they also won four seats in the last assembly poll.

In cities and towns, urban and rural areas they scaled the five-per-cent hurdle that has proved the undoing of so many newcomers and so many minorities in post-war Germany.

Naturally, many reasons spring to mind why the Greens should poll more than five per cent in elections to the Stuttgart assembly rather than elsewhere.

But not even the sum total of extraneous circumstances can really be said to account for the Greens' phenomenal success story, still less for their potential.

The three major established political parties are slowly coming to realise that the backlash against nuclear power stations and other projects that threaten to despoil the landscape is more than a seven-day wonder.

After having shared the political spoils between themselves for a generation or more the Big Three, the Social Democrats, Christian Democrats and Free Democrats, are starting to include the Greens in their strategic planning.

None of them can afford to sit back and take it easy. All lost votes to the newcomer, Baden-Württemberg again showing that a wide variety of voters ure attracted by the Greens.

The bastions of the working-class vote were the only areas where the new party failed to make headway at everyone else's expense, but this can have been scant consolation to the Social Democrats, who have long claimed to represent the people as a whole rather than any one section of the population.

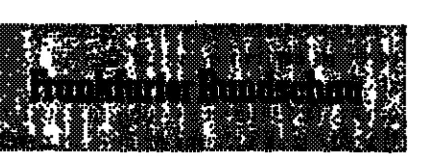
The only threat to the old system

At present the Greens are the only political force in the Federal Republic who might succeed in breaking up what has come to be a well-nigh classical three-party system.

Their general direction may differ from that of Herr Strauss but they seem some way towards achieving his erstwhile ambition of putting paid to the Social and Free Democratic coalition majority in Bonn by running his Bavarian CSU as a countrywide fourth major party.

Unlike Shadow Chancellor Strauss, whose tactical subterfuges would be unlikely to have proved a vote-winner, the Greens are well on the way to success.

Since the war only the National Democrats, riding the trough of an economic depression, have made an impres-



sion on the voting strength of the Big Three.

This is not, of course, strictly true. Early post-war flash-in-the-pans such as the Deutsche Partei and the BHE also established a countrywide following, even gaining temporary access to the Bundestag.

But unlike the National Democrats they have not been around for over 20 years, and unlike the National Democrats the Greens are making headway without the advantage of a serious economic recession.

The Greens really are something new, although it remains to be seen whether they prove a permanent feature on the political landscape and establish themselves at national level.

Committed individual Greens are the motive force behind a movement that seems to run most smoothly where former Social Democrats are in charge, as in Bremen and Baden-Württemberg.

The readiness of these men and women to campaign for the Greens rather than for one or other of the Big Three can no longer in principle be nipped in the bud by Social and Free Democratic pledges to take it easy on environmental issues.

The proviso "in principle" is used advisedly, since in practice the SPD and FDP may continue to muster their traditional support one more time at the 5 October Bundestag polls.

But to prove their pledges with any conviction the major parties would need to mothball entire nuclear power stations, and that is out of the question; the decision to go ahead with the nuclear programme is irrevocable.

What is more, there is a limit to the extent to which Herr Strauss can be cast in the bogyman's role.

Besides, many Green voters in Baden-Württemberg were not committed supporters of the new party. Why, then, did they not, as floating voters have usually done, opt for the more conventional alternatives?

Floating voters have usually tended to switch allegiance from the SPD to the FDP and from the FDP to the CDU, or vice-versa.

They may partly be motivated by annoyance with legislation, administration, red tape and parliamentary misuse of power — circumstances doubtless fairly insignificant against the background of wider international problems.

But in some cases support for the Greens has been based on a feeling that parliaments and authorities have ceased to represent the man in the street.

Scepticism has been generated and has gained fundamental importance, inducing voters to switch allegiance to a protest group.

It is up to the major parties to work out why voters backed the Greens. There can be no doubt that the floating voters were responsible for allowing the Greens to emerge as the only real winners in Baden-Württemberg.

The Green protest vote effectively led to the resignation of Erhard Eppler as SPD leader in the state.

Eppler unable to halt protest vote

Dr Eppler is a Social Democratic intellectual and not a man to inspire voters and win elections singlehandedly. But he had hoped his consistent political views would lead to small SPD gains.

But even he, an SPD ecologist as it were, was unable to stem the tide of the protest vote.

The Social Democrats would be well advised to make sure Dr Eppler stays in politics. Were he to retire, the left wing of the SPD would have lost a leader with a proven ability to marshal left-wing support.

What is more, his retirement would be grist to the mill for the Greens.

Roderich Reifenrath

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 March 1980)

Greens take care over 'leadership'

Wolf-Dieter Hasenclever, 34, is one of the six Green state assemblymen elected at the polls in Baden-Württemberg on 16 March.

It remains to be seen whether he will emerge as leader of a group or of a recognised parliamentary party, with all the privileges parliamentary party status entails.

This is not such a minor issue as might seem to be the case. The Greens are keen to set themselves apart from the leadership traits to which established political parties bear witness.

As a result they have difficulty with concepts of hierarchy, and Herr Hasenclever takes pains to point out that he is not the party's state chairman.

He is merely a member of a collective leadership that is reluctant even to admit to the term "leadership," such a sore point is "jobs for the boys" in the eyes of Green supporters.

Concentration of political power in few hands is symptomatic of the sickness of the established parties, they feel, and Green leaders take care to avoid triggering this allergy.

So Herr Hasenclever, who is undeniably the foremost member of the Greens in Baden-Württemberg, might in theory be in a position to emerge as parliamentary party leader, but in practice he could well steer clear of the nomenclature.

But in all but name he is the party's leader and to a large extent personally responsible for the sucess at the polls of a grouping of many colours whose strength, as he puts it, lies in unity in diversity.

He is a 34-year-old teacher at a Tübingen comprehensive school and anything but a political greenhorn. He once was a member (and branch chairman) of the SPD, then joined the AUD, a splinter group.

He studied physics and mathematics at Freiburg, where he was state chairman



Wolf-Dieter Hasenclever (Photo: Sven Simon)

of the Social Democratic Students' League, but last autumn he was elected to the local council on a Green ticket.

He is not a Swabian; he comes from Remscheid in the Ruhr. He is not a right-winger either, not even by Green standards, and his political predigree would hardly give rise to any such expectations.

His theory of ecological humanism incorporates criticism of the existing economic system, while his views on foreign affairs are hard to reconcile with East-West clichés.

He is neither taken out of his stride by Afghanistan nor is he willing to concede that Afghanistan in any way bears out conventional foreign policy viewpoints.

Yet at the same time he is no Communist stooge, although he has no hesitation in referring to the practice of screening applicants for government jobs and the ban on militant left-wingers as a *Berufsverbot*, or career ban.

In Baden-Württemberg the Greens are right to avoid Communist entanglement of any kind. Many voters, as the elections results showed, feel that even in allowing Communists to help with their campaign the Greens were laying themselves wide open to infiltration.

What is more, many for the most part younger voters distrusts Communists as representatives of the established party-political scene and pillars of salt in their unswerving allegiance to dogma.

As a politician Herr Hasenclever faces an uphill task and will have to reconcile the politically irreconcilable. Is he a well-meaning idealist of the kind so many Greens make themselves out to be? Or is he a political pragmatist of the kind the Greens abhor?

If he is a pragmatist he stands a chance of success, but only providing he is able to conceal the fact from his supporters.

This he might be able to do by virtue of his pleasingly youthful air and evident pleasure at appearing in public in a relaxed manner not usually associated with people in his position.

Wolf-Dieter Hasenclever clearly enjoys having emerged as a poll winner, but he is not given to euphoria. He has proved his mettle for the moment, but will he succeed in the long term?

That will not depend on him alone but on whether the Greens maintain their momentum as part of the system. He cheerfully claims he can envisage being the forerunner of something new.

Friedrich Karl Fromme

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 March 1980)

■ DEFENCE

Growth of German arms output brings some mixed blessings



Almost all the military hardware for the Federal Republic's armed forces is made in Germany. The arms industry is flourishing — *but its manpower is diminishing.*

This is one of the findings of a study by the Hamburg Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy.

The study, *Arms Production in Western Europe*, produced by Michael Brzoska, Peter Lock and Herbert Wulf, shows that some 15 years ago, the number employed in the arms industry in this country was 50 per cent higher than the 238,000 today.

Its publication comes as the Bundeswehr is being re-equipped. This "all-round renewal" is due to reach its peak this year and be completed in the mid-1980s for an estimated DM50bn.

Defence Minister Hans Apel says that his cost does not include the inevitable price increase.

The most important purchase will be the multi-purpose Tornado fighter aircraft, the 122-Class frigate and the Leopard assault tank.

The Hamburg study says that even *when this business is booming, jobs are insecure, particularly when orders come in slowly.*

But the study has bared even more acute problems, among them the consequences to other countries arising from this development in Germany: "The development of production capacities in the Federal Republic of Germany due to growing domestic orders and stepped up exports has created problems for the French and British arms industries."

In those two countries the arms business plays a much greater role than in Germany. Accordingly, they also employ more people in that branch of industry (630,000 in Britain, 436,000 in France and only 238,000 in Germany).

So the more the German arms industry expands its production capacities the tougher the competition for the other and the more envious they become.

One way out of this dilemma could be an extensive cooperation agreement between West European arms manufacturers. This would also be in line with demands of the military for more standardisation of military hardware.

But the study points to old experience in this field, saying: "Arms production is only coordinated when there is a necessity to do so, not when it is possible to do it. And the necessity arises when lack of financial capacity and technical knowhow make it impossible for a country to carry out a project on its own.

All countries concerned bear the blame for this state of affairs, including their military.

For them, standardisation and cooperation within the Alliance is not as important as the concern about being placed at a disadvantage with deliveries from foreign manufacturers, differing strategic and tactical concepts, coordination of purchasing plans and special needs in arms research.

Politicians, both in the governments and the parliaments, also tend to opt for orders being given to local companies. The reason behind it is obvious: they want to be re-elected. But what about industry?

The arms industry — at least in the economically strong countries of Western Europe — should actually act like any other industry and be interested in overcoming national frontiers. But makers of military hardware are largely nationalistic... probably because most of them want to preserve what they consider their independence, the study says.

The authors deliberately say "probably" because they found it very difficult to obtain exact information on plans, decisions and other details.

Information gaps can only be closed by making comparisons with other branches of industry and contradictions only resolved by comparing different statements from a variety of sources and applying the criterion of greatest probability.

Even so, the study has not only succeeded in pinpointing the most acute problems of the West European arms industry but also in showing where future conflicts are likely to arise, and these conflicts will primarily be due to the development of the German military hardware industry.

"In view of the limitations of markets in Nato and the developing countries, the present situation and possible expansion of production capacities in Germany can lead to severe consequences both in foreign trade and domestically.

"Either Germany's arms industry succeeds in capturing further market shares at the expense of its competitors in other West European countries and the United States or arms exports to developing countries will be stepped up at the expense of sales of other industrial goods to those countries or pressure will be exerted on the Bundeswehr to buy more military goods in order to keep the extended production capacities going."

Any one of these developments sketched in the study entails dangers the consequences of which can only be surmised at present. And since these dangers have been ignored so far — or largely ingnored — it is possible that, in the wake of the Afghanistan crisis, they will be brushed aside altogether.

Karl-Heinz Harenberg

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 23 March 1980)

New chief for Euro forces

Germany's Admiral Günter Luther, 58, has been appointed deputy commander-in-chief of Allied Forces Europe (DSACEUR).

He replaces General Gerd Schmückle, 62, who is retiring.

Admiral Luther was a lieutenant commander at the end of World War II. He joined the Bundeswehr in 1956, becoming Navy chief of staff in April 1975. He was made a full admiral before assuming his new position. *ddp*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 March 1980)

Difficult path

Continued from page 1

the 1971 Four-Power Berlin Agree[ment] was put. Agreement on an agree[ment] was a sine qua non of ratificatio[n of] Bonn's treaties with Moscow and [War]saw. Not until they were signed and [ratified] could work begin on negotiatin[g the] terms of the Basis Treaty betwe[en the] two German states, on UN memb[ership] for Bonn and East Berlin and on [the es]tablishment of missions in their [respec]tive capitals.

One of the ironies of politics wa[s that] the final phase of this protracted p[rocess] coincided exactly with the Guil[laume] spy case that led to the resignatio[n of] Herr Brandt as Chancellor.

Statistics about the "human a[lleviation] ments" and practical improvements [this] policy has entailed could well [gloss] over, in an abstract manner, the im[por]tance they have had for the indivi[duals] concerned.

This is no less true of the probl[ems] the GDR has encountered in connec[tion] with the new Ostpolitik and Deut[sch]landpolitik.

But the current international poli[tical] situation must surely underscore that that these "easements" would never h[ave] been possible had it not been for a [com]promises on disputed status issue[s].

Both sides found these compromi[ses] hard work. It took a new generation [of] political leaders to put them into eff[ect]. It is not going too far to note that Wa[l]ter Ulbricht had to be retired be[fore] action happened.

Hopes placed in a common Ger[man] culture have paled. There have repea[ted]ly been serious setbacks in other [re]spects too. On major issues such as th[e] proposed legal assistance agreement there is still no prospect of progress.

But the past 10 years have shown [that] from various premises and for va[rious] motives a limited range of interests [can] and must be balanced.

What the Erfurt summit first dem[on]strated was level-headed readiness to t[alk] regardless. *Robert Leicht*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 March 19[80])

Nato exercise a test in international flexibility

Different weapons systems, regulations and customs of the various Nato allies have been highlighted during the "Anorak Express" exercises in Norway.

The shoulder-to-shoulder contact between the Britons, Canadians, Italians, Americans and Germans has thrown up problems, but despite it, the 5,000-man mobile forces coped amazingly well.

English is the language of Nato, spoken with varying degrees of fluency.

The fuel dump functions splendidly although it has not been institutionalised like the repair system and the spares depot for the many different types of vehicles, the central food depot of the Norwegians, the British-German helicopter unit, the telecommunications centre of the Bundeswehr and the field hospital from Munich.

Though national differences remain, the men soon become buddies. They lend each other those pieces of equipment that are better in their own nations forces.

Thus, for instance, the Bundeswehr has no snow camouflage nets and the British simply cover their tents with white plastic. So the have-nots borrow from the haves.

The German soldiers wear white Canadian boots with rubber soles and felt socks. Says one Bundeswehr soldier: "We'd get pretty cold feet if we had to wear our own leather boots."

The cold bothers everybody. Though the winter sun heats the air to above freezing during the day, at night the temperature drops to minus 17 deg.C.

So the nights would be pretty unbearable for the Bundeswehr soldiers if they did not have Canadian sleeping bags to roll up in.

The German field hospital which, due to the great temperature differences between day and night, showed signs of getting flooded in the exercises four years ago now has a massive wooden floor.

But should the hospital have to be moved in a hurry the planks would remain behind.

For those who need a dentist it is nice to know that the drill is no longer operated by foot as in the last exercises but by electricity which comes from [a] heavy duty generator.

And patients can communicate [with] the doctors in their own language as every country has provided its own [me]dical staff.

The roads are heavily iced up and t[he] German Unimogs have to put on cha[ins] to be able to proceed at more than [...] kph while British heavy vehicles [are] equipped with spike tyres.

Most helicopter pilots of the [US] Marines discontinue their flights t[he] moment the sun is down although [the] long twilight would have enabled th[em] to fly another few hours.

The local population watches [with] glee as the US Marines clear the sn[ow] on a strip of coastline called Blue Be[ach] before an amphibian operation.

Says one of the locals: "Can't th[ey] cope with a few inches of snow?"

But it was one of their own Norwegian officer — the defender [in] this case — who had the snow remo[ved] so that the frost could penetrate dee[p] into the soil, providing better protec[tion] against track vehicles.

And since environment protec[tion] now plays a major role in military ma[n]oeuvres, the area around Tromsø, [seen] from the air, appears untouched in [the] wake of Anorak Express.

Alphons Scha[...]

(Die Welt, 19 March 19[80])

■ SAVINGS SCHEMES

Entrenched habits limit possibilities

The issue of savings subsidies for the man-in-the-street has bogged down in Bonn once more. Labour Minister Herbert Ehrenberg and Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff had already agreed on a compromise solution when Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer told them in a letter that he had no money for the project. Wolfgang Drechsler of Prognos AG, Basel, shows in this article that capital accumulation by the man-in-the-street is possible even without imposing undue financial burdens on the state.

Savings and capital formation in the Federal Republic of Germany are headed in the wrong direction. Though the volume of savings is high compared with other countries, the nation's wealth is still very unevenly distributed.

The savings of private households rose from 3 per cent of net income in the early fifties to more than 16 per cent in the mid-1970s and now stands at about 13 per cent.

Most important, however, is the fact that the Germans try to accumulate capital almost exclusively in the form of money. The working population by and large knows only the savings book or, in a few cases, special building-society programmes as investment forms.

Company stock for employees and other forms of capital participation in the employer's company are negligible.

One of the consequences of this is that German companies have become increasingly undercapitalised and that productive capital is unevenly distributed.

But how can saved money be converted into productive capital? One way of achieving this would be for the govermnent to subsidise only investments in productive capital. It speaks in favour of such a measure that all capital formation projects by the government cost the state more than DM10bn in 1977 and it is doubtful whether much was achieved. In any event, wealth has remained concentrated in relatively few hands.

It is unlikely that less would be saved if savings were not promoted by subsidies. But the government at least wants to stick to its subsidies for savings towards home ownership because of sleeply rising land and construction costs.

Moreover, the subsidies have helped to cushion the effects of inflation for the small saver and it would therefore be unwise to discontinue them. Besides, the drain on government coffers will diminish from year to year (from DM10.2bn in 1977 to a probable DM6.5bn in 1981) because more and more working people are reaching the limit of eligibility (DM24,000 for singles and DM48,000 for couples a year).

Additional promotional measures are restricted lack of government funds. This makes it the more important that the money that is available be used selectively.

The relative success of company stock for employees seems to point in the right direction.

In 1970, only 36 companies issued such stock. By 1978, their number had risen to 85 involving some 750,000 staff members. There are four reasons for this success:

Companies are evidently prepared to promote capital participation by their staff. Though this entails costs to the company it does not affect liquidity and, most important, such participation is an incentive for the employees.

The staff member is not only interested in buying his shares at a cheaper than market rate. He is also prepared to use his own money to buy stock — frequently for the first time in his life — because he thus becomes co-owner of "his" company.

Stock as a legal instrument is almost ideal in promoting a capital formation policy aimed at promoting productive assets. Shares are easily transferable and there are no value assessment problems when they are traded on a stock exchange. The holder can turn his shares into cash at any time and without depriving the company of funds.

If a corporation sells its stock to the staff at a preferential rate, any profit derived from the difference between the purchase price and the market value involving no more than DM500 per person per year is tax free.

The new capital formation measures stand a chance if they are designed along these lines. The decisive factor is that the shares issued to staff members are shares of their own company. This also applies in cases where staff members of subsidiaries are enabled to buy parent company stock at preferential rates.

The practical success is likely to be very limited in cases where employees of a company are given stock or investment certificates of companies other than their own because the incentive element would fall away.

The mere extension of investments eligible for subsidies under the Savings Subsidy Act and the Third Capital Formation Act to include investments in productive capital would not do much good. The situation is entirely different where the envisaged inclusion of silent participation in a worker's own company is concerned, i.e. the issue of special staff shares. This would take into account three of the four success factors. The fourth factor, i.e. the use of stock as an ideal capital formation instrument, must be dropped simply because we have relatively few public companies and their number is diminishing.

In 1962, 643 corporations were quoted on the stock exchange. This dwindled to 465 in 1976.

Furthermore, three-quarters of our working population are employed by companies with a payroll of less than 1,000. Some 70 per cent of our GNP is produced in small and medium sized businesses.

Most of them are proprietary companies with limited liability where a broad distribution of productive capital is much more difficult than in the case of public companies.

The transfer of shares in proprietary companies must be done before a notary public and it is very difficult to assess the value of such shares. Other company forms where shareholders are personally liable are in any event totally unsuitable for such a scheme.

In addition, there, too, we have the problem of value assessment of the shares and almost insurmountable tax obstacles.

The obvious solution in all these cases is a silent partnership. But this does not lead to broad participation in productive capital in legal terms.

The investment of a silent partner becomes part of the assets of the owner of the company for whom it then represents something between his own capital and foreign capital.

The silent partner has no say in the company and his legal access to information is limited. As a result, official statistics do not include silent participation in the asset column.

The businessman will see it as a drawback that a silent investment is not timeless as is a share of company stock. But if a partnership contract is concluded for a 25-year period, as is customary in some non-public companies, the deal is sufficiently long-term to cushion adverse effects.

A further cushioning effect is achieved by the possibility of transferring such a share to other employees of the same company.

And, finally, the typical silent participation is no genuine capital participation because a fixed amount is repaid on expiry of the contract.

Still, the advantage of capital participation as in the case of shares of the company's stock is overestimated.

Should a compny go bankrupt and have to be liquidated, the assets are unlikely to suffice even for its creditors.

In terms of a viable capital formation policy, it is important that no losses are sustained through inflation. The most important thing in this context is the interest rate for the duration of the investment.

All in all, the indisputable disadvantages of silent participation are smaller than the advantages in terms of capital formation since this provides a genuine possibility of widely distributing productive capital.

But another hitherto disregarded instrument is even better: a type of security that provides a capital share without a say. There is as yet no legal definition of this instrument and this makes for added scope.

Such an instrument becomes interesting in cases where it provides the same capital rights as those of shareholders or partners. Furthermore, these rights can be extended to encompass claims in case of liquidation.

The advantages of the instrument compared with silent participation are considerable. The capital remains available to the company for an unlimited time and therefore resembles the company's own capital.

Also, transfer is simpler than with silent participations. Besides, the instrument could be admitted to stock exchange trading along the lines of shares, and major companies would not have to enter into individual contracts with every single employee.

The Bertelsmann AG was the first German company to have offered its staff such instruments as a supplement to the well established and successful "Bertelsmann Model" with its indirect silent participation.

Other companies are now also contemplating issuing these "no-say securities".

Government capital formation policy should promote such schemes in the same way as it should promote silent participations. *Wolfgang Drechsler*

(Die Zeit, 21 March 1980)

Government-subsidised savings incentives

	Savings Bonus Act (bonus rates since January 1975)				Housing Society Deposit Plan Bonus Act			
for	single persons	childless married couples	couples with 2 children	couples* with 3 children	single persons	childless married couples	couples with 2 children	couples* with 3 children
Bonus	285	445	534	740	328	512	600	826
Max. annual premium: DM624 Act	624	624	624	1248	624	624	624	1248
Max. annual premium: Savings/Deposit Plan Bonus Act, in DM	800	1600	1600	1600	800	1600	1600	1600
Bonus rate	20%	20%	24%	26%	23%	23%	27%	29%

*both employed

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Trade unions put plan for wide-ranging reforms

The German Trade Union Federation (DGB) has outlined a programme of social reform. The main aims, spelled out in a 54-page document, are to achieve full employment and training opportunities.

The programme, which encompasses the sectors labour, health, family and social security, calls, among other thngs, for a lowering of the optional retirement age to 60 for both men and women and old age pensions of not less than 90 per cent of the net income of a working person in a position similar to that last held by the pensioner.

The financing is to be done on the solidarity principle whereby the working population pays for the pensions of the retired. The system is to be financially guaranteed by Bonn.

In the health insurance sector, the DGB demands that the insurance limit be rescinded. Premiums and cover should be raised to the level of the present social security pensions.

The preamble states that the unions' struggle for equality of the working population within society has lost none of its importance.

Among the most important interests of the working population are self-realisation and participation in social decision making processes, health and job security.

The DGB also wants to secure professional skills and jobs corresponding to these skills as well as secured incomes and adequate provision of social services. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 March 1980)

■ FINANCE

Currency performances belie the traditional explanations

Traditional textbook explanations no longer explain the topsy-turvy nature of the international economic situation.

For instance, the American inflation rate has passed 18 per cent; Germany's is a little over 5 per cent. Yet it is the dollar, not the deutschemark that is becoming stronger.

So much for the concept that inflation rates are reflected in exchange rates.

Another example: the oil-consuming countries are paying billions more to the Opec nations. But all this extra cash is not, like in 1974–75, finding its way back through the purchase of goods from the industrialised countries.

Opec is neither willing nor able rapidly to step up its imports.

According to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, increased imports are hampered by an inadequate infrastructure and the attempt to put the brakes on the acquisition of Western consumer habits among the Opec nations.

Therefore, petrodollars will be looking for lucrative investment opportunities. And does not experience from the first oil-price explosion teach us that foreign currency markets provide such an opportunity splendidly?

The poor and the poorer developing countries, which suffered most from the price dictates of Opec, had to borrow the money they needed to pay their oil bills from the money markets in the *industrialised countries, i.e. the banks there. The banks, in turn, lent money on deposit from Opec. But even this circle, no matter how logical, no longer functions.*

And so the pessimists began putting two and two together. Until very recently, the deutschemark was one of the hard currencies. Our oil bill, payable in dollars, was not as steep as would have seemed from the price increases because of a favourable exchange rate against the dollar.

But after the slight spells of deutschemark weakness lately we can no longer expect to cushion the oil prices with our exchange rate.

We still have to pay our oil bill in dollars, but now have to pay more for the dollars. As a result, our oil purchases are now a greater drain on our foreign exchange reserves.

This, together with diminishing trade surpluses, a deficit in the service sector and in the transfers home by foreign workers plus the contributions to the European Community, has greatly worsened out foreign trade position. Last year, we had a current account deficit of DM9bn, which is likely to rise to DM20bn this year.

This forecast is indicative of the pessimism in the outlook for our exports.

After the first oil shock, Germany offset the drain on its foreign exchange reserves by its success on the export front.

The period of our buying more from the Opec countries than we sold to them ended in 1977, and from then on our exports to them exceeded out imports.

Since the foreign exchange markets at that time coped splendidly with the task of channelling the extra petrodollars earned by Opec back to the hardest hit developing countries who, unlike Germany, were unable to offset the drain by stepped up exports, even the poor developing countries remained solvent.

Not so now. Even populous oil countries are now pursuing a new strategy. They want to keep their oil reserves as long as possible and have switched from their previous hectic development to a more sedate approach.

Many of the poor and poorest Third World countries which at that time borrowed on the Eurodollar market can no longer do so because they have become poor credit risks.

Up to this point the pessimists among the forecasters are right. But they are wrong when they believe that disaster in the form of a depression like that of the 1930s (which failed to materialise after the first oil-price explosion) is inevitable now.

How important is a temporary deutschemark weakness? The Bundesbank is acting as it should: it is shoring up the deutschemark by selling dollars from its foreign exchange reserves worth DM85bn. From the beginning of the year to the end of February it sold dollars to the tune of DM10bn.

The soaring of the dollar against the deutschemark is being checked as is the depreciation of the deutschemark. The Japanese are trying to do the same, but their foreign exchange reserves are much smaller.

The crazy dollar-deutschemark parity cannot last very long. At present, America's high interest rates are attracting huge amounts of capital. But nobody seriously believes that the Americans will manage to curb their inflation.

And as soon as the international political situation cools down, the pi[…] is bound to change. Concern over i[…]tion will then be even greater than [the] joy over the failure of a recession to [ma]terialise, and the dollar will we[aken] while the deutschemark hardens.

The Bundesbank is doing the [right] thing to harden the deutschemark [and] gives priority to fighting inflation.

The increase of the discount rate gladdened savers because interest [on] their savings accounts have also [in]creased and saddened the business comm[unity] because of the higher interest rates [on] loans.

The Deutsche Bank was first to [an]nounce that it would pass on the [added] interest to the savers. The other banks followed suit by increasing not only interest on savings but, even [more] so, on loans.

This consistent stability policy is [the] best guarantee for the strengthening [of] our international competitiveness. O[nly] so can German exporters be succes[sful] and thus earn part of our oil bill on [for]eign markets.

A hard deutschemark is also the [best] magnet for capital inflow because only [it] can provide Opec with attrac[tive] investment opportunities.

If the International Monetary F[und] succeeds in providing Third Wo[rld] countries with soft term credits, the[n] still under conditions aimed at reha[bili]tating their economies, we sh[ould] manage to weather the latest oil pri[ce] hike without going into a depression.

The Western economic system wi[th] its decentralised decision making pr[oc]esses has so far proved amazingly fl[ex]ible and adaptable.

It coped with the first oil price explo[]sion better than predicted. Given a sen[s]ible stability policy and a period of a[d]justment, we should again be able [to] cope.

Rudolf Her[…]

(Die Zeit, 14 March 19[80])

The mood among Germany's exporters is good. The economy in Germany and in other Western industrialised nations is performing better than expected after the oil price shock and the restrictive measures introduced last year.

The Paris-based OECD no longer speaks of stagnation but expects a modest growth rate of 0.5 per cent — primarily because performance in the first half of the year is likely to be better than in the second.

There is more emphasis now on the dangers in the second half of the year. Among the main worry factors are the anti-inflationary measures introduced in all countries that must lead to a simultaneous decline by interacting on each other.

There was no doubt from the very beginning that last year's growth rate would not be maintained after the oil price explosion and growing inflation rates.

Hopes that things might no turn out too badly are based primarily on expectations that private investments will not diminish too much because of the need to adjust to higher energy prices. Germany's export business is likely to profit due to its emphasis on capital goods.

Generally, the situation of Germany's foreign trade this year differs from that in 1979. Our foreign trade surpluses will shrink still further — especially because the increased oil prices are only just beginning to reflect in the books.

Things look different if we disregard this price effect. The Institute for the

■ TRADE

Outlook is rosier, but the warnings persist

German Economy, Cologne, expects exports to rise by 4 per cent and imports by 3.5 per cent.

Other pundits are less optimistic. But they, too, expect a rising foreign trade surplus.

Last year, when imports rose by *9* per cent and exports by 7 per cent (adjusted for inflation) things were different.

In all likelihood, foreign trade will stabilise and perhaps even stimulate employment. True, compared with other economic cycles — especially with the time immediately after the 1973 oil shock — the effect is small this time. But in view of diminishing growth rates in this country it should not be minimised.

The reason why this effect is not as pronounced as in 1974 is the changed international economic situation. At th[at] time, many Western countries perform[]ed splendidly on the export front be[]cause they were still in a boom pha[se] while Germany had already put on th[e] brakes.

The Opec countries stepped up the[ir] imports enormously and even the Ea[st] Bloc increased its purchases conside[r]ably.

Even so, 1979 saw a greater exp[ort] boom than the previous years. But th[is] was no longer enough to balance th[e] current account. This year's balance [of] payments deficit is likely to be eve[n] greater than in 1979, primarily due [to] the increased oil bill.

Where transfers are concerned, as[sis]tance to Pakistan and Turkey in [the] wake of the Afghanistan invasion are [li]kely to be further drains.

Since Germany has ample foreign [ex]change reserves it can afford this cur[rent] account deficit for a while. What [is] more worrisome is imported infla[tion]. Rising raw materials prices are no[w no] longer cushioned by an appreciating [de]utschemark. On the contrary. Th[e] depreciation of our currency on fore[ign] exchange markets is likely to accele[rate] the inflation rate, and the terms of tr[ade] are likely to deteriorate; in other wo[rds] we will be exporting our affluence.

Still, it would be wrong to attempt [to] influence the development of the [ex]change rate. Instead, we should pu[rsue] an anti-inflationary economic and [fiscal] policy to increase our competitive[ness] and so make the burden bearable.

Hans-Jürgen Mah[…]

(Die Welt, 13 March [1980])

Major customers | **Major suppliers**

West German foreign trade in 1979 in DMbn

Exports to:		Imports from:	
France	40.0	Holland	35.8
Holland	31.3	France	33.2
Belgium/Lux.	26.8	Italy	25.8
Italy	24.5	Belgium/Lux.	23.4
Britain	21.0	United States	20.3
United States	20.8	Britain	17.2
Austria	16.5	Switzerland	10.6
Switzerland	16.4	Austria	8.4
Sweden	9.1	Japan	7.9
Denmark	6.8	Soviet Union	7.4
Soviet Union	6.6	Sweden	6.2
Yugoslavia	5.0	Libya	5.5

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■ THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Merger delay holds up fight for prosperity

The merger between Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) and Vereinigte Flugtechnische Werke (VFW), Germany's two largest aeronautics companies, was scheduled for 31 March.

But now it seems as if the green light for takeoff will not be given until the late autumn.

The objective is tempting and convincing: only jointly can these two companies be strong and large enough to take the lead in Europe for international projects.

Together they have a turnover of DM3.6bn and a staff of 37,000 — mostly specialists and highly-skilled labour.

The State-owned British Aerospace employs 66,000 but its sales are smaller.

France's Aerospatiale, on the other hand, sells more than the Germans with a smaller payroll. This is primarily due to the high quota of arms exports.

Compared with the Boeing Company, America's largest manufacturers of civilian and military aircraft, space equipment and weapons, the three European companies are Lilliputians.

Boeing's sales in 1979 were the equivalent of DM15bn. The company employs 100,000 (having had to hire 20 per cent more staff the past year). Net profits last year were higher than VFW's sales.

Boeing has dominated the world market for three decades. During that time German, French and British companies have been merging and their energy has been sapped in the process.

Germany's aerospace industry is only viable if it receives Government orders. This has been used by all economic affairs ministers in Bonn to pressure them into merging.

Unlike in France and Britain, where the industry also depends on continuous Government orders and subsidies, Germany opted for private enterprise rather than nationalisation.

Even so, the public sector has had a considerable influence (the State of Bavaria is involved with MBB, both directly and indirectly as is the city of Hamburg, while Bremen has an equity in VFW).

In December 1977, when VFW-Fokker was in danger of collapsing, there were those who called for nationalisation. The Works Council called on Bonn, the city-state of Bremen, and Lower Saxony to take over. Now, the Works Council has again called for participation by Lower Saxony.

This is in no way unreasonable. About one half of the 11,000 VFW jobs are on Lower Saxony territory. Parts for the wide-body Airbus are manufactured in Einswarden. Other plants are in Lemwerder, Varel and Hoykenkamp near Delmenhorst. Besides, many of the 4,450 workers at the VFW Bremen plant commute from Lower Saxony.

But is is most unlikely that Lower Saxony will buy an equity in VFW although the SPD opposition in the *Land* Assembly will probably try to promote this.

The Senates of Bremen and Hamburg (the SPD has a majority in both), on the other hand, pursue a policy of direct influence in VFW and MBB through equities. The CSU government in Munich acts along the same lines.

They have reiterated time and again that they want to secure jobs in this branch of industry in their respective *Länder*. Jobs were particularly threatened in Bremen towards the end of 1977 when VFW-Fokker debts mounted to DM540m, threatening to strangle the company.

Eight years earlier, VFW had merged with the Dutch Fokker Company. Europe's first aviation marriage caused sidespread euphoria at the time. Moreover, the merger was in keeping with the Bonn Governments political aims. But the dowry which the two brought into the marriage proved disastrous for both VFW and Fokker.

Fokker was mass producing its short-haul F28 and VFW had just completed the development of West Germany's first civilian aircraft, the VFW 614. But from the very beginning the Dutch were unhappy with the VFW product though they were in charge of sales while the Germans looked after the technical part of the operation.

Both the VFW-Fokker merger and the VFW 614 foundered, and the two companies separated on 1 January.

Thus they will again have separate stands at the International Aviation Show in Hanover in April.

The idea of further mergers within the German industry was revived even before the long crisis of VFW-Fokker.

Bonn came up with a list of demands which was heavily influenced by Munich ideas. MBB stockholders saw no point in merging with VFW (including Fokker), while the Dutch would not have minded such a tripartite deal.

So Bonn wanted a separation of VFW and Fokker, and this prevailed in the end. The price was high: except for DM42m, Fokker's share in VFW-Fokker debts was waived.

After Fokker pulled out of the merger, the road would have been clear for a VFW-MBB tie. And in fact MBB announced that it would acquire an equity in VFW after a VFW-Fokker disaster was averted in the nick of time but that it would do so without cash changing hands.

But the separation of VFW and Fokker took two years in which time VFW-Fokker recovered due to the growing number of Airbus orders. Thus an MBB participation without payment was out of the question.

One of Bonn's conditions was that a Frankfurt firm establish the assets of VFW as a basis for the new merger. This has now been done. The chief executives of the two companies had meanwhile agreed on how to divide production, research and development.



An Airbus being built by Vereinigte Flugtechnische Werke. (Photo: VFW)

So all preconditions would have been met had not the situation changed so completely as to make it necessary to start negotiating again from scratch.

Bonn, Bremen and Munich did not reckon with two men in the United States: General Alexander Haig, now chairman of United Technologies Corporation (UTC), and that company's president, Harry J. Gray.

In late 1979, when the separation of VFW and Fokker was imminent and the merger with MBB within grasp, Haig and Gray wrote to Franz Josef Strauss, who is closely involved in MBB. UTC, the letter said, welcomed the merger and hoped for good cooperation. But UTC, with its 26.4 equity in VFW, would not sell its holding.

"It was like the end of the world," an insider described the reaction in Munich and Bonn.

Neither Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff nor anyone involved in the project here in Germany had expected such a move by the Americans.

UTC reminded the forgetful Germans of certain clauses of the contract. Twenty five years ago, when VFW was formed by a merger of the former Weserflug and the Focke-Wulf Company, the Germans, weakened by the war, were happy about the interest of the potent US partner and each party granted the other first options to buy.

UTC, a silent partner for 25 years, now insists that Krupp offer it its equity of 35.2 per cent should a sale be contemplated. This means that the US company would have a 61.6 per cent equity and hence the absolute majority. MBB, on the other hand, is worried even by the idea of a UTC blocking minority in the contemplated new company. "This is a thorn in our flesh," say those involved in the deal in Munich.

Count Lambsdorff went to East Hartford, Connecticut, to talk Gray and Haig into selling their equity. This visit made it obvious to the Americans how desperate the Germans are for the transaction. They said no. Count Lambsdorff then felt that the only way out was to ask Krupp not to sell, come what may.

Said an insider in Bremen: "The Americans know how to bide their time." And indeed, UTC said nothing when VFW embarked on the risky 614 project. The American company did not sell its stake, even when VFW was floored. And not that it is getting back on its feet it would be unreasonable to expect UTC to sell.

Haig and Gray realise, of course, that their equity gives them an edge over their American competitors — the only ones that count — because UTC is the only American company to have a firm foothold in Europe's soaring aerospace industry. Boeing had previously sold its small stake in MBB because it stood no chance of gaining any say in that company.

UTC made a lucky dip when it gave the job to General Haig who, having been commander-in-chief of Nato Forces Europe, is more familiar with the European scene than anyone else. This applies particularly to the booming arms business.

If UTC particiated in VFW-MBB it would gain something it has no had so far: access to highly sophisticated weapons systems. It is this rather than the Airbus and the new helicopters that interests that company so far as Europe is concerned.

UTC is providing Pratt & Whitney engines for the Airbus anyway. This subsidiary of UTC has been cooperating closely with the German engine manufacturers MTU in Munich and, shortly, in Hanover.

The helicopter subsidiary of UTC is Sikorsky. MBB is as successful as its American counterpart in the development of helicopters and electronically controlled weapons systems, as borne out by its BO105.

Helicopters are the most primising deal in military history. The PAH2, an assault helicopter for the 90s, for instance, is likely to be sold by the thousands, and even a giant in the field like Sikorsky cannot ignore German competition on world markets.

Seen from the vantage point of UTC, VFW is small fry — but small fry with a golden promise. If at all, the Connecticut company will sell its equity at a very high price — a price which only Bonn could pay, because Munich dies not have that kind of money.

But in all likelihood UTC will not sell at all. In that case, a holding company is likely to be founded as a receptacle for all MBB and VFW equities.

There are likely to be separate management companies in Ottobrunn near Munich and in Bremen, civil aircraft being built in the North and military (inclusive of helicopters) in the South. The think tank will remain in Ottobrunn.

Dieter Tasch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 March 1980)

Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) has a payroll of 22,500. Its turnover last year was DM2.6bn. The capital of DM175mn is held as follows (in per cent):

- 14.85 Bayerische Landesanstalt für Aufbaufinanzierung
- 7.80 State of Bavaria
- 20.25 Hamburger Gesellschaft für Beteiligungsverwaltung mbH
- 26.59 Fides GmbH (Siemens, Thyssen, Aerospatiale)
- 12.15 ABM (Allianz and Bosch)
- 11.50 Willy and Lilly Messerschmitt Foundation
- 4.14 Ludwig Bölkow
- 2.96 Aerospatiale
- 75 Blohm Family

The Vereinigte Flugtechnische Werke (VFW) has a payroll of 9,700. Its turnover last year was DM1bn. The capital of DM45m is held as follows (in per cent):

- 38.4 Hanseatische Industrie-Beteiligungen (City-State of Bremen)
- 35.2 Fried. Krupp GmbH
- 26.4 United Technologies (mixed US concern)

Until recently the Heinkel family had a 12 per cent equity, but was bought out by Bremen.

Apart from joint ventures with MBB (among them Airbus, Transall, Tornado, Starfighter, guided missile systems, rocket programme Ariane), VFW also makes the civil aviation passenger jet F 28 and supplies the Navy.

■ NUCLEAR ENERGY

Radioactive waste waits for disposal – and decisions over dumps

Dumps of low- and medium-grade radioactive waste are full to overflowing. Contaminated gloves, ash, laboratory animals and the contents of reactor dustbins fill hospital cellars and intermediate dumps at nuclear research centres to the brim.

Yet the only subterranean resting-place for nuclear waste, a disused salt mine at Asse, near Wolfenbüttel, was shut down by order at the end of 1978.

At Asse 124,000 drums of low-grade and 1,300 of medium-grade radioactive waste are stored down below, but new arrivals have ground to a halt (although there is no lack of either storage space or waste) because that is how the politicians like it.

It is a paradoxical state of affairs, says Till Bottlor, head of research at Asse, which is owned and run by a nuclear and environmental research company 90-per-cent owned by the Bonn government.

"The politicians, not the Greens, have succeeded in bringing operations here to a halt," he explains resignedly. "Drums rolled in by road until the end of 1978.

"Then they said rail transport would be better and a rail spur was built. But almost as soon as it was completed Asse was shut down."

The facts were even weirder. A new shaft was driven and a cavern excavated at a depth of 1,000m (and a cost of DM50m) to house radioactive waste. It is empty.

A total DM100m has been invested at Asse and will only bear dividends if research findings are put to use at Gorleben, where another controversial underground waste dump is planned.

"We are not in the least interested in remaining the country's only nuclear waste dump," says Heinz Jörg Haury. "Even when drums were still rolling in, waste storage made up only 15 per cent of our work."

Research is their priority, and they would very much like a small amount of high-grade contaminated waste on which to practise.

In 10 years' time about 1,700 tonnes of fuel rods will be returned from La Hague, France, when Bonn's contract with the French reprocessing company runs out.

Since high-grade radioactive waste molten in glass is not available it has had to be simulated to pave the way for storage at Gorleben (should the Gorleben plant ever be built).

Asse, it was concluded, is unsuitable for storage of high-grade waste. Gorleben has untapped salt deposits 10 times the size. Yet Asse is by no means small.

It is shaped like a jumbo subterranean Swiss cheese. Each underground chamber, where salt was mined until 1964, is the size of Frankfurt's *Kongresshalle*.

At 13 levels there are 130 chambers of this size, or enough storage space to house low- and medium-grade radioactive waste for the next 50 years.

Journalists visiting Asse are repeatedly asked by disheartened scientists which is better: to store waste above ground, as at the two new intermediate storage dumps in Karlsruhe, or down below?

"There have been suggestions of storing waste down below in retrievable form, but as likely as not nothing will come of them," says Till Bottler.

But drums already stored down the mine, some clad in concrete, are there to stay. At a depth of 750m we are shown some of the drums, 1978 vintage or earlier.

Some are stored in neat rows, others have just been upended and covered in salt. How much radiation are staff exposed to? Zero, as annual checks confirm.

Scientists invariably have a convincing tale to tell. A group of Swiss cantonal deputies recently toured the mine, we are told, and stood anxiously eyeing the drums.

They were reassured that natural radioactivity is higher in Switzerland than at Asse, and two hours after my own tour of the mine my radiation count too was zero.

Yet we stood alongside stacks of drums and drove miles round the mine in a jeep at a depth of 500m to 750m to see for ourselves the research in progress.

It mainly consists of test drilling to check the susceptibility of the salt to heat, which is important because high-grade waste stays hot.

Then we saw a disused jumbo crane towering above the shaft leading down to a chamber reserved for medium-grade waste.

A few miles away, at Bartensleben in the GDR, there may well be a crane that is used to store East German nuclear waste. But no West German scientist has yet been allowed to see how the GDR disposes of its radioactive refuse.

All that is known, from old documents, is that Bartensleben has a disused salt mine similar to Asse. The area has been declared out of bounds.

Yet at Asse "people from the GDR have been here often; we have nothing to hide."

The GDR is known to have to return to the Soviet Union spent nuclear fuel rods from its three nuclear power stations, so East Berlin at least has no trouble with high-grade waste.

But spent fuel rods are not just waste, as Günter Scheuten of the nuclear fuel reprocessing agency explains:

Spent fuel rods are not ash, like the waste from coal-fired power stations. They contain 95 per cent of their original uranium, one per cent of newly-generated plutonium and 4 per cent of fissile products.

In other words, 96 per cent can be re-used. With an annual 1,400 tonnes of spent fuel rods (and an installed nuclear power capacity of 53,000 megawatts) nuclear fuel reprocessed for use in light-water reactors could be used to generate the equivalent of 40 to 50 million tonnes of coal, or more than half West Germany's annual coal output.

If this reprocessed fuel were fed to

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Outer space suggested for storage

Disposal of toxic and radioactive material is a serious problem. No one wants to sit on a radioactive time bomb. But why not shoot nuclear waste into outer space?

Peter Natenbruk, a research engineer with Erno in Bremen, gives the idea serious consideration in the latest issue of the VFW-Fokker house journal.

He restricted himself to the disposal of "reasonable" quantities, to the maintenance of maximum safety and to the observation of strict economy.

Enormous amounts of at least different kinds of dangerous waste are produced all over the world. In Germany alone about 6,000 cubic metres of radioactive waste are produced by hospitals and clinics.

Including nuclear waste from other sources about 280,000 cubic metres will have accumulated by 1990.

Bearing in mind that about five per cent of the annual output must be highly radioactive and dangerous, Space Shuttle flights would be needed to dispose of this category in outer space.

And each flight would have to take a garbage container 6.5m long with a capacity of 25,000kg.

The further away from earth a waste dump is set up, the safer storage will be. The most convenient policy would be to shoot containers clear of the earth's orbit.

The drawback would be the need for expensive no-deposit no-return garbage containers. Besides, waste disposed of in this way could not be retrieved for reprocessing.

So Herr Natenbruk concentrates on high-altitude terrestrial orbits of between 5,000km and 30,000km for an estimated lifespan of over 1,000 years.

The US Space Shuttle could only take the tonnage envisaged to an altitude of a few hundred Kilometres. Further transport would have to be by tug or some other propulsion platform.

An orbital service and filling station is clearly a good idea, since it would make it unnecessary to use the tug's payload capacity for this purpose.

But both tug and service station have yet to be devised, and a specially designed, single- or two-stage, reusable Heavy Lift Vehicle would appear more economic.

It could be used to ship three [illegible] containers simultaneously, necessitating only 15 launches a year. Using HLV, a combination of conventional launch technology and the reusable Space Shuttle principle, the waste dump could be reached directly, without intermediate staging posts.

Dealing in greater detail with [illegible] requirements, Herr Natenbruk bases his calculations on the assumption [illegible] launching would be from a mobile [illegible] time base stationed on or near the equator.

The advantages are obvious [illegible] earth's rotation, 460m per second [illegible] be put to good use in saving lift-off energy, while take-off risks would be minimised by a sea-based launch [illegible]

Work on a waste dump in outer space could begin before the end of the century, he claims. Even taking [illegible] cost estimates as a guide, research and development costs could largely be recouped in a few years.

Günter Benek[illegible]
(Frankfurter Rundschau, [illegible] March 1980)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Family-sized boat that flies above the water

Günther W. Jörg, 52, has invented a boat that flies low over either water or land. And it has been officially classed as a land vehicle.

For 16 years Herr Jörg has sought to overcome the force of gravity in as elegant a manner as possible. The result is a flying boat that is now to be manufactured by Polish shipbuilders.

He already has three canary-yellow prototypes that have undergone trials on the Rhine, the Main and Chiemsee, Bavaria, and in the Mediterranean.

They look like weird gigantic insects as they speed effortlessly over land and water. They seat four to six and are claimed to run on no more fuel than a family saloon car.

Herr Jörg uses a simple aerodynamic principle to keep his craft airborne with a minimum of effort and demonstrates it with a sheet of paper.

He lets a sheet of writing paper fall on to a table top. There is obviously a barrage of air between the two that keeps the paper gliding along the surface of the table for a while before it finally lands and comes to a halt.

When his flying boat takes off and gathers speed, on water or land, air cushions form beneath the four wings that provide sufficient uplift for take-off from speeds of about 80 km/h (50mph).

At a cruising speed of 140km/h (88mph) it glides at about two feet above ground or water level.

The wing design stabilises the craft along its transverse and longitudinal axes, so it needs only to have its direction or course set, like a boat or a car, and needs no balance control like an aircraft.

"For thousands of years there have only been boats on the water," the inventor explains. "I have devised not only a new technology but also a new theory."

He is unenthusiastic about the hovercraft. Pumping air at great expense (in energy terms) underneath the craft to generate an air cushion is an idea he finds coarse (and he is a great believer in elegance).

A mechanical engineering graduate, he worked nearly 20 years in aviation, including a spell as assistant to Professor Messerschmitt in projects such as the vertical take-off jet.

He began thinking about air cushion propulsion by himself in 1963, constructing remote-controlled models before finally taking over the controls of his first manned prototype.

It came as a great relief when the Bonn Transport Ministry ruled that his flying boat was a ground vehicle, not an aircraft, because it relied on the surface of the ground or water beneath it.

Otherwise the entire idea would have been a non-starter because of the design and operational conditions he would have had to meet.

The boat is licensed by shipping authorities. Anyone who holds a motor boat licence is entitled to fly it.

Its inventor reckons it is a swift and energy-saving sports and private travel craft that could also be used by the police and customs (since it is not exclusively waterbound).

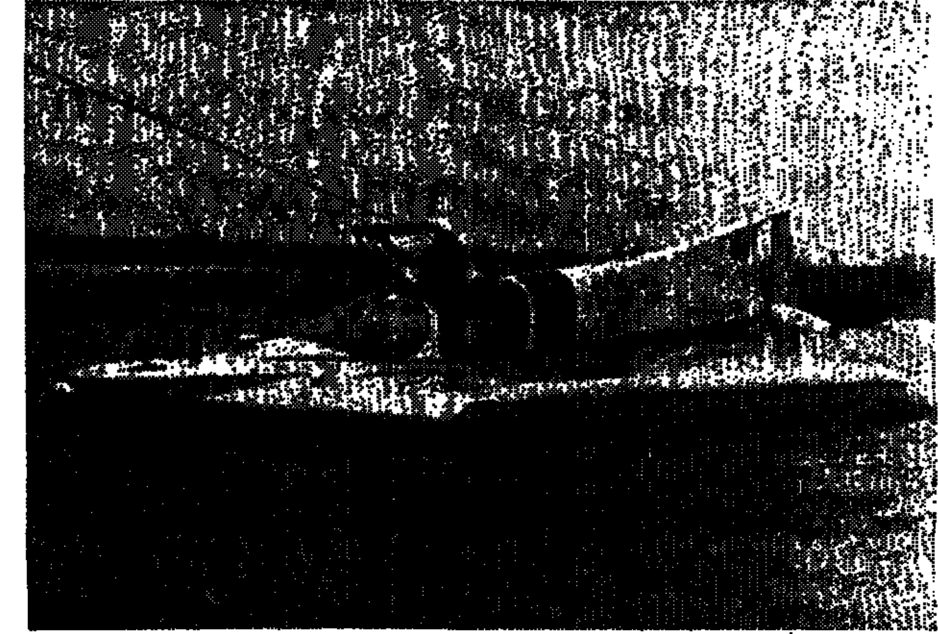
Günther Jörg foresees a great future for his flying boat. He and his family have for years spent all their spare time and cash on it.

"I could now build a flying boat with a take-off weight of 33 tonnes and a wingspan of 37 metres," he says.

"It would be 68 metres long and use 10,000 horse power to fly 1,000 passengers from Hamburg to Lisbon, say, in nine and a half hours at 330km/h.

"It would travel at an altitude of four metres but the cost would be equivalent to that of rail travel."

Birgit-Ingeborg Loff
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 March 1980)



Günther Jörg's boat that flies (Photo: Günther W. Jörg)

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fast breeder reactors, energy output could be increased sixtyfold. Small wonder that Hesse is hailed for agreeing to house a reprocessing facility with an annual capacity of 350 tonnes.

Hesse Economic Affairs Minister Heinz Herbert Karry reaps most of the praise for a politically courageous decision that makes sound economic sense, or so it would seem.

Nuclear power experts are optimistic about prospects of waste disposal and reprocessing:

"When intermediate storage dumps are full, and that should be soon, state governments will be clamouring for reprocessing plant of their own."

At Asse it does look as though there has been a swing of the pendulum in favour of nuclear power. Take, for instance, the birthday reception for Herr Karry. Nuclear protesters gatecrashed the reception demanding a political explanation why nuclear power was needed. Hesse Prime Minister Holger Börner stepped forward and laconically said: "Because we don't want to have cold feet." The protesters accepted his explanation and went on to help themselves to beer and sausages.

Günter Tilliger
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 12 March 1980)

Police look with envy at a prototype amphibian car

"We could badly do with a car like that," says Gerhardt Träxler, chief of Hesse police's water division, pointing to a prototype amphibious car reminiscent in design of the ubiquitous jeep.

It is a grey-green vehicle perched on the bank of the River Lahn and Herr Träxler was one of a group of police officers who were impressed by the Universal 77.

It is a car that would make the work of water division police officers much easier. "It takes us six hours to go down the Main with its succession of locks," says Inspector Wismeth. "With an amphibious car it would take only a fraction of the time."

The Bundeswehr, water police and shipping departments, customs offices and industrial customers would need to show sufficient interest in the vehicle to establish a market for 3,000 units a year.

Private buyers who get a kick out of amphibious motoring would add to the small but clearly defined market for a vehicle of this kind.

"An amphibious vehicle would prove invaluable in tracking down environmental offenders alone," Herr Träxler says.

In the Third Reich amphibious cars designed by an inventor with the mellifluous name Trippel were so highly rated that Hitler placed the Bugatti works in Molsheim at the inventor's disposal.

The Allies then banned the manufacture of amphibious vehicles in Germany and it was not until 1961 that Industriewerke Karlsruhe, a Quandt Group company, started manufacturing the Amphicar, based on Trippel's know-how.

About 3,000 were built and, for the most part, shipped to America. They were the only amphibious car of the 60s and the water division of Hesse police lavished care and attention on its Amphicar for nine years until it had to be scrapped.

They reluctantly consigned it to the scrapyard because no replacement was available, and although Trippel tried his hand at manufacturing another amphibious car in 1974 the bid never got beyond a few prototypes.

Karl Mayer, a textile machinery manufacturer from Hanau, near Frankfurt, was keen to remedy this state of affairs and signed a contract with Trippel in 1976.

But Mayer insisted on design changes that were not to the inventor's liking and they parted company.

Trippel tried to get going again under his own steam in Speyer. Mayer hoped to achieve a breakthrough with an amphibious car of his own design. Both failed.

In 1979 a new financier, Fahrzeugindustrie Müller in Renderoth, was found and Trippel resumed design and construction of the Universal 77, a four-wheel drive amphibious car with a Ford engine.

A building block system has been devised to keep prices down by manufacturing the car from standardised sheet metal parts.

The Universal 77 boasts a 2.3-litre engine and travels at 20km/h (12 knots) on water and 150km/h (94mph) on land.

"A short run will soon be leaving the Renderoth assembly line," Trippel says. He has high hopes of a Spanish manufacturer building a long run.

Enasa, the Spanish manufacturer, built the Pegaso, a Ferrari-type sports car, 20 years ago before concentrating entirely on commercial vehicles.

Hesse police may badly need an amphibious vehicle but they are waiting until series production starts before buying. "We can't afford to buy a prototype with the taxpayers' money," Herr Träxler says.

Hans-Peter Rosellen
(Die Welt, 15 March 1980)

The Universal 77 amphibian getting the once-over from police and showing its paces. (Photos: E. Flechsig)

THE THEATRE

International expression the feminine way

Cologne Schauspielhaus has just staged a one-week international season of women's theatre. It was the first of its kind in Germany.

The cross-section it presented included companies from America, Britain, France, Italy and, in a second section, German groups.

Women's theatre is aimed at cutting loose from the traditional aesthetics of the stage in its man-made form and achieving a breakthrough to a new, feminine form.

It is a balance sheet of women's situation in society. Women, the Cologne festival clearly showed, powerfully reflect their own experience, their views on themselves, their environment and their view of what goes on around them and happens to them.

They have a wide range of artistic options from which to choose in doing so; from review sequences and a one-woman show to cabaret.

Spider Woman, a New York company, demonstrated in a gaily-coloured se-



"Is Dennis Really the Menace?" performed by the London group Beryl and the Perils.

quence of images what they themselves had experienced on the subject of their play.

Women in Violence was their topic. Need one add that men were the agents of violence?

They named their group Spider Woman after an Indian goddess of creation. The tales they had to tell were of women's anxiety in the subway and of the husbands who threatened and oppressed them.

They acted out the frustation women feel about always having to be a "real" woman — pretty, agreeable and lacking in personality of their own.

They also outlined the worry women create for each other, each being the other's rival: "Am I better-looking, am I more successful, do I make a better impression?"

And women were seen to have little love lost between each other as a consequence of this continual feeling of competition.

This was all shown not only with a wag of the forefinger but also in a crazy show. Spider Woman women were heavily made-up, wore many-coloured patchwork and fanciful costumes and performed their piece with captivating verve.

They were noisy, fantastic and given to burlesque. They were always on the move (sophisticated choreography, incidentally) and switching from one mood to another.

The public were swept along on these waves of emotion, sharing the little girl's horror over the "uncle," the older girl's happiness at believing herself loved and subsequent unhappiness on realising she has been no more than a plaything.

They shared the grown woman's disappointment at what is called love.

But they were also bowled over by the company's cheerfulness and vitality, which are almost overwhelming. It was a perfect presentation of women's experience on the subject of violence and oppression.

It came straight across too. There was no need for bridge-building for purposes of interpretation, regardless of alienation and occasional language difficulties.

The same could be said of Michèle Foucher of the Théâtre National, Strasbourg. One of France's best-known stage actresses, she one day grew sick and tired of always playing roles for women written by men — second-hand women, as it were.

So she trudged round Strasbourg and surrounding villages with recording equipment interviewing other women.

The centrepiece of these interviews was the table, an item of furniture at which women spend most of their lives, and reached the tentative conclusion that women were responsible for the table, men for the rest of the world.

Michèle Foucher, of the Théâtre National, Strasbourg, in "La Table". (Photos: Inge [illegible])

The play she wrote after all these interviews with other women was accordingly entitled *La Table*.

Singlehandedly she plays the parts of all these women: the worried housewife; the overworked working woman who has no idea how she will possibly manage to get a meal on to the table when she gets home from work; the gossip who gives everyone else a verbal going-over as she sits drinking coffee with a friend.

Last there is the lonely woman who is so afraid of life that she crawls under the table to hide. It proved a shattering experience and the audience clearly felt it.

The German companies performed cabaret sketches, fittingly so in view of the social situation of women.

They made fun of the men's overweening pride, poured scorn on "softies" (or men's libbers, who claim to be sympathetic) and made pointed remarks about the latest tendencies in [illegible] women's movement.

They went to the lost luggage [illegible] for instance, to ask whether a lost [illegible] to political activity had been handed [illegible] They poked fun at the wave of [illegible]mininity with roots straight down [illegible] natural and a direct link with the [illegible]

In the second section of the festi[illegible] featuring German companies, men [illegible] *verboten;* it was strictly women [illegible] and the ban created an uproar. [illegible] might have imagined men were [illegible] interested in women's theatre, so [illegible] did the ban appear to be resented, [illegible] oddly enough very few men were pres[illegible] in the first part of the festival when [illegible] were allowed in.

Could it just be that outrage at being excluded was because men are [illegible] used to being excluded from anything [illegible] anywhere? *Christine Lemm[illegible]*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 March [illegible])

Women look at their musical role

Women and Music is an international study group based in Cologne that has just held its fifth conference in Bremen.

It was set up in autumn 1978 to look at the role of women, in history and at present, as composers, performers and musicologists.

Research and alternative musical activity were intended to make a contribution towards emancipation in general.

Equal rights for women, it was claimed, were sorely needed in music especially, it arguably being the sector of society in which they suffered most from masculine hitelage.

The Bremen meeting was held in the hospitable Oberneuland home of pianist and composer Siegrid Ernst.

She lives in such picturesque surroundings and peace and quiet that one was tempted to forget the mountain of problems women face, especially in music.

The conference began with a concert of works by women composers. It was splendid but posed a fundamental problem.

The arias by Barbara Strozzi, a 17th century composer, were not bad. The scherzo for piano by Clara Wieck-Schumann made good listening too and is much better than many works by her contemporaries that are played much more frequently.

But the moderns had little that was original to offer. Relevant composers such as Grazyna Bacewicz and Ruth Crawford Seeger were not represented.

Joanna Bruzdowicz, a 37-year-old Polish composer, even went so far as to dedicate one of her sonatas to Pope John Paul II — surely a slap in the face for the women's movement!

Why, then, does one feel disposed to show forbearance? Is it just another instance of a male critic deigning to be patronising? Far from it.

A number of groups with interesting items on their programme cried off because they were either unable or unwilling to perform free of charge. Women and Music were unable to pay five-figure fees.

And why should one be so upset that, say, Barbara Heller's work for flute and piano sounded like a pale imitation of *Hindemith?*

Afterwards, in conversation with the composer, it transpired that this particular work was 20 years old an written when she was a student.

Thereupon she had been subjected to such unfair pressure by her husband that she had pessimistically given up composition altogether and only now was slowly coming into her own, a typical tale!

The conference, attended by about 40 musical women, began with a paper by Bremen musicologist Freia Hoffmann entitled About the Great M[illegible] and His Little Cook.

Dr Hoffmann dealt not only with women composers who have been ignored in history but also with the bourgeois cult of (male) heroes in the entire course of history, of which the oppression of women forms a part.

In other words, it is not enough [illegible] include a handful of statutory women [illegible] the annals of composition; history m[illegible] be entirely rewritten, and not in [illegible] of individual artistic genius.

This was an interesting suggestio[illegible] that could well be taken up by workin[illegible] parties on women and music and mus[illegible] teaching, but there were a great ma[illegible] new faces in the study group, which [illegible] by no means homogenous.

Many came because they simpl[illegible] wanted to tell others how they felt, [illegible] listen to what others had to say, to ma[illegible] contact. So the outside observer could [illegible] excused for feeling that the fifth confe[illegible]ence was still symptomatic of an orga[illegible]sation in teething trouble.

Yet Women and Music has in [illegible] long since progressed from its ea[illegible] days, although organisational prog[illegible] might not have been much in evidence.

Preparations are under way for a fe[illegible]tival of women's music to be held [illegible] Bonn in November (possibly a year [illegible] two too early).

There are any number of wom[illegible] bands and folk groups. There is a [illegible] magazine *Troubadours*. In Cologne [illegible] archive of data, scores and so on is [illegible] built up.

It remains to be seen, of cou[illegible] whether the organisation will in [illegible] long run be able to ride the tensions [illegible]tween career women artists on the [illegible] hand and radical feminists on the [illegible] whose aim is to establish an [illegible] new and different culture.

Hartmut [illegible]

(Bremer Nachrichten, [illegible])

THE ARTS

Hannah Höch finally gets recognition

For those who know her name at all, Hannah Höch was the "muse" of the Berlin Dada group and close friend of the "dadasophist" Raoul Hausmann.

What might also be known about her is that she made collages. Though Höch — she died in 1978, aged 89 — attained a certain fame during her lifetime, she felt this rather as a burden and an intrusion. Her life had achieved a certain balance without official recognition.

The Tübingen Art Museum is now for the first time showing texts, letters and photographs relating to Höch.

It appears that the opening of the largest review to date of her works — an exhibition organised by Götz Adriani — will remove the last of the obstacles that has stood between this important artist and the public. The exhibition will be on view in Tübingen until 4 May and will then move on to Hanover and Wuppertal.

The Tübingen show has for the first time presented hitherto unknown documents from the artist's estate. They include some of her works and writings and letters and photographs of her Dada friends which she had kept under lock and key until her death.

Having generously been placed at the museum's disposal by her heirs, they now form the basis of a biographic documentation in the form of the catalogue for the exhibition with texts by Jula Dech, Peter Krieger, Heinz Ohff, Eberhard Roters and Karin Thomas.

Hannah Höch was the daughter of an upper middle class couple in Gotha. She went to Berlin in 1912 where she attended an arts and crafts school and subsequently studied graphic arts under Emil Orlik.

The outbreak of World War I, which turned harmless British tourists into "enemies" from one day to the next, also marked the collapse of the "well tempered *Weltbild*" of Hannah Höch. From that moment, she lived a "politically conscious life."

As it turned out later, her "problematic relationship" with Raoul Hausmann, one of the most important founders of the Berlin "Dada Club", was decisive in her life.

The Dada Club was founded in 1917 by the psychoanalist and author Richard Huelsenbeck as an offshoot of the Zürich-based "Cabaret Voltaire".

Dadaism, which was started as an international movement, attacked everything it deemed to be of yesterday, old-fashioned and bourgeois with a blind rage and enthusiasm.

There is no getting away from the pettiness of the fierce dispute between Hannah Höch and Hausmann over the priority of photomontage, a dadaistic invention.

The bitter satisfaction with which Höch said decades later that Hausmann had found it hard to prevail artistically sheds an ugly light on the character traits of her former lover.

One thing is certain: Hannah Höch was familiar with the collage principle from her childhood. She knew that their joint "discovery" was based on a method practised by Prussian regimental photographers who had group pictures in uniform in stock to which they subsequently added the heads. In fact, photomontage played a more important role in Höch's work than in the works of any of her friends of the time.

It is also certain that the role of "Hausmann's girlfriend" that was foisted on her by the revolutionary Dada Club, a male domain — the role of an efficient girl who knew how to make sandwiches for the lot and indeed knew how to earn the money to pay for them — was an image that was to remain with her for the rest of her life and that proved a major obstacle for the public's view of her work.

The independence of Hannah Höch, which Eberhard Roters considers characteristic, was later to turn into loneliness.

After an intinerant life with stays in Holland and Italy, in the course of which she met Nelly and Theo van Doesburg, Piet Mondrian and Kurt Schwitters, she returned to Germany.

In 1939, she managed to fool the Gestapo by moving into a guard shack at a disused training airport near Berlin. The shack was completely overgrown with bushes and barely visible. There, she not only managed to escape the Nazi sleuths; she also saved all the documents, letters and works of the Dada era by placing them in a metal box and burying them near the shack.

Throughout that time, she continued her work. In fact, she was the only one of the former Dada members whose work shows complete continuity, and it is one of the great merits of the Tübingen exhibition that it displays this continuity all the way to the very late phases.

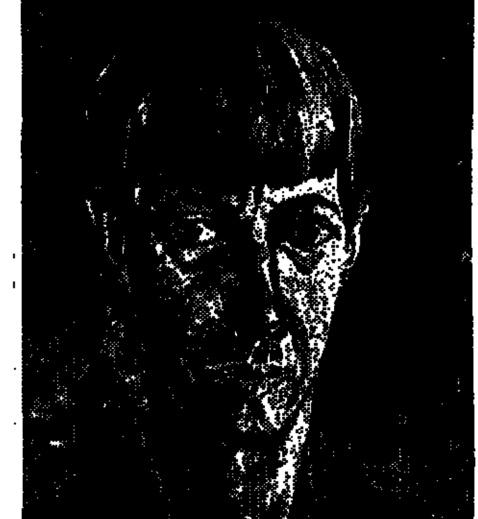
At first glance, the works shown in Tübingen appear unusually heterogenous and full of stylistic contradictions. Furthermore, many visitors to the exhibition go with a preconceived notion of dadaism, forgetting that, in Höch's case, Dada only played the role of a midwife.

Once the visitor has rid himself of this notion, he discovers an oeuvre which, notwithstanding its complexity, is extremely compact.

Eberhard Roters even goes so far as to say that the absence of "style" is a dadaistic style element in itself — a style collage.

Another prominent feature is the "detachment" to be found in both the works and the life of Höch. Anybody trying to find evidence of her as a partisan of political pogrammes will search in vain, although her later collages which come very close to purely decorative objectives are never free from references to social realities.

The continuity of content is perhaps most evident in the magnificent paintings on exhibit in which the collage principle is transferred to painting, anticipating pop art and new realism.



Hannah Höch: self-portrait (Photo: Catalogue)

This collage technique, paraphrasing the motif symbolism of this series of pictures, contrasts the organic with the technical world on the one hand and the male with the female principle on the other.

The one threatens the other and the autobiographic elements are unmistakable in these visions marked by civilisation and pessimism. Modern man appears as a marionette, a mechanical toy threatening himself and what remains of his organic environment.

There is hardly any need to stress that these pictures hit the very core of a topical dispute.

Rainer Vogt

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 11 March 1980)

Kagel radio play wins 'belated' award

Mauricio Kagel's *The Tribune* has been chosen for the 1980 Radio Play Prize of the War Blind. It was picked from 26 entries by a panel who were guests of Radio Bremen.

There was palpable relief among the members of the panel when the voting showed that 16 of the 19 favoured *The Tribune:* many consider that at last some dramatic justice has been done.

This is because in 1975, a large minority of the panel that year felt that Kagel should have received the prize for his *Soundtrack.*

And in 1977, many thought his *Die Umkehrung Amerikas* (The Reversal of America) should have won.

The Tribune is a one-man play. Kagel is the author, composer, speaker and director. And yet, he presents a genuine "show for the ear."

The same theme is mirrored time and again and from all angles: mass seduction by a seemingly charismatic speech.

Kagel systematically unmasks the instruments of demagogic rhetoric, baring the dialectic structure of the redeemer pose with which so many false "Führers" have achieved their disastrous successes.

Kagel's compository analyses of martial music and the cry of the masses shed light on the essence of this catastrophic way of engendering mass madness.

"This historically and geographically unpinpointed model of the speech as an instrument of power is an artful and many-tiered plea for democracy and thus also a help in our coping with our past," the jury summed up.

Sixteen of the 19 jurors voted for the play by the man who was born in Buenos Aires in 1931, has lived in Cologne since 1957 and only recently caused a stir with his music theatre *Die Erschöpfung der Welt* (The Exhaustion of the World).

The jury's summation states that the radio play *Plotonismus II oder Die Tugend gehet hinter dem Beispiel* (Plotonism II or Virtue goeth behind the Example) by Ingomar von Kieseritzky also received consideration.

This is an extremely interesting play. But its gentle malice will probably only be understood by listeners who have had experience as professors, primarily philosophy professors.

Kieseritzky's acoustic slapstick comedy about teaching and learning contains descreetly parodising Socratic dialogues that are grippingly comic.

Plotonismus II was directed with remarkable and dry precision, and this is one of the elements that makes it so interesting. This was made particularly clear because two other radio plays were wrecked by the director.

The victims were — of all people — Ror Wolf with his *Die Einsamkeit des Meeresgrundes* (The Loneliness of the Seabed) and Gert Jonke with *Hörfunkenflug* (Radio Sparks).

Both are fine authors of our middle generation who hold a lot of promise for the future.

Adaptations of Hans Magnus Enzensberger's *Untergang der Titanic* (Sinking of the Titanic) and Max Frisch's *Triptychon* found little favour with the jury despite the authors' fame.

The rest of the plays, apart from three near failures, were solidly presented works.

The phase of aesthetic innovations is long over, so now attempts are being made to get done with the phase of sham innovations as well.

There is a clear inclination to stick with solid craftsmanship and to try it again with dialogue — in some instances even with radio short stories.

The most prominent themes deal with the German past and how to cope with it.

Hubert Wiedfeld's *Wenn der Vater die Zähne verliert, müßten dem Sohn Hände wachsen* (When the father loses his Teeth the Son should grow Hands) tells the story of a working-class father who tries to understand history from the vantage point of his son, showing the variations that are possible on this particular theme.

George Tabori's *Mutter Courage* (Mother Courage), the story of a woman who manages to escape a transport to the Auschwitz concentration camp by the skin of her teeth, is impressive — at least while it sticks to being a simple story.

Another major theme is the direct and realistic confrontation with everyday life today. Walter E. Richartz' *Bürohörspiel* (Office Radio play) and Guntram Vesper's *Geräusch beim Entsichern der Pistolen* (Sound when slipping the Safety Catch on the Pistols) and, above all, Ernst Gethmann's *Die Aufsteiger* (The Climbers) and Joachim Walter's *Infarkt* (Infarction) are worth mentioning in this context. Joachim Walter, incidentally, was the only GDR author to have competed.

All in all, it's good news from the radio play front — although Mauricio Kagel's *The Tribune* stands out before this backdrop of honest effort.

Heinrich Vormweg

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 March 1980)

■ THE MEDIA

Effects of television on children come under multi-pronged probe

As yet we have no experience with entire generations that grew up watching TV rather than playing with construction kits and dolls and going through the leisure activities traditionally associated with childhood.

The TV boom did not get under way in West Germany until 1958, from when the number of viewers increased by a million a year, but the result is that the worst may yet have to come.

There can be no doubt whatever that social and psychiatric behaviour patterns can be altered substantially by a childhood spent watching TV rather than playing games.

It need not necessarily be a change for the worse, but there is a distinct possibility it will, especially as children are seldom content to watch children's hour.

Tiny tots often stay up until the small hours getting in proportionately more viewing than adults. One survey has shown that as many three- to seven-year-olds watch TV at midnight as adults — relatively speaking, that is.

At 9pm an average 13 per cent of three- to 14-year-olds have their eyes glued to the screen, which is exactly the same percentage as watch children's hour.

A recent survey commissioned by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation that is probably applicable in equal measure



to West Germany indicated that nearly all four-year-olds are regular viewers.

In the United States media specialists have coined the term "visiots" for TV-mad children. It is a tragi-comic coinage, readers will surely agree.

There is scant consolation in the thought that Americans live more dangerously in many respects. True enough, US infants clock 30 hours' viewing a week, or five times as much as their counterparts in Germany.

But the 11 hours a week put in by eight- to 13-year-olds, equivalent to a day and a half per week, are not to be sneezed at, although the latest figures point to a slight decline.

Dieter Stolte, programme director of ZDF, the Second Channel of West German TV, is doubtless right in warning against premature conclusions and unwarranted speculation.

It is too easy, and clearly mistaken, to lay all the blame for poor educational prowess, inadequate powers of concentration, misguided social behaviour, health shortcomings and so forth on the ubiquitous TV set.

Research has yet to reach a clear conclusion. Not enough is known about the phenomenon.

Academics in West Germany have only just woken up to the problem and started to pay attention to it, and in addition to the delay their research is largely uncoordinated.

There are research workers like Augsburg sociologist Professor Peter Atteslânder who concede, with a gesture of resignation, that: "We know nothing."

There is only an apparent contradiction between this claim and the fact that roughly 1,000 books have been published over the past five years dealing with the influence of the media on children and young people.

Frankfurt psychologist Henning Haase says ignorance, dubious assumptions and doubts still outnumber fragmentary positive knowledge.

Is it, then, appropriate to echo the Socratic sentiment and say that all we know for sure is that we are ignorant? Not entirely. Reliable basic information is available.

Behaviour within the primary group, or family, is probably a crucial factor in socialisation, so the reactions of parents or guardians to viewing habits are extremely important.

What influence do they exert on the influence of the media?

First aid for parents could well be provided in a brochure entitled TV and Your Child published by the Federal Health Information Centre, Cologne, on behalf of the Bonn Ministry of Youth, Family Affairs and Health.

It is readably compiled and well arranged by Heike Mundzeck. The brochure studiously avoids the sociological terminology that is Double Dutch to most parents and puts most specialist literature beyond their ken.

There may not, then, be much definite information about the effect of TV on children but it is undisputed "that the attitude and behaviour of parents towards their children's TV consumption is of great importance."

Deciding on nature of watching habits

The brochure is aimed at "persuading parents to come to terms with the role of TV in their family and outlining opportunities of assigning TV an appropriate role.

"It must be redirected from its current widespread role as a 'hidden educator' and transformed into an active stimulus for joint leisure activities in the family."

In a book entitled in German *Die Droge im Wohnzimmer* (The Drug in the Drawing Room), US children's psychologist Marie Winn hit the headlines with root-and-branch views.

She reckoned switching off the TV was the best means to counter its passive, insidious influence on the young. Heike Mundzeck is more pragmatic, realistic and circumspect.

She does not adopt Ms Winn's tenet that it is immaterial what children watch, since TV is in itself fraught with danger and prevents them from gaining other experience.

Frau Mundzeck reckons it depends on the extent of viewing, the kind of programmes watched and the circumstances in which they log their viewing.

There can be no doubt that parents switch on the TV set as the sitter or comforter. It is used as punishment or reward. No attention is paid to what the children watch; they are mostly left to their own devices, glued to the screen.

"Children are told to be quiet; questions go mostly unanswered, overlaid by layer after fresh layer of experience.

"Children grow steadily lonelier and increasingly turn to the television in satisfaction of their craving for attention, recognition and genuine experience. Without achieving the desired result, of course."

Children who watch more than hours of TV a day "are often scholars. They feel they are not accepted by grown-ups and friends.

"And if their parents put in a great deal of viewing too they find scant way or support for doing their own thing.

"They live second-hand lives, as it were, and sooner or later they become strangers to the world, incapable of coping for themselves and listless."

It is important to note that the effect of TV on children differs from its effect on adults. Children aged up to six and over cannot distinguish between imagination and reality.

Even older children retain the sensations they derive from watching a programme. They feel happy or sad, anxious or comfortable.

As a result these feelings accompany them throughout their daily routine and influence their well-being. So it is by no means immaterial whether a child watches an exciting or worrying film or reassuring film.

Insomnia, headaches, loss of appetite and overweight can easily result from too much TV. Small children should be allowed no more than half an hour's viewing per day on average, larger children no more than double this amount except in special circumstances.

The brochure is only intended as an initial aid. Its immediately obvious drawback is that it is too short and to the point.

There is no opportunity of dealing in depth with individual aspects, citing examples or demonstrating at least a few definite findings.

Inevitable oversimplification is the result. Children from the age of 10 on are, for instance, encouraged to watch the TV news and current affairs programmes.

This is claimed to be a means of heightening their sense of reality and prompting them to ask questions about what really goes on in the world.

Whether TV news programmes in their current form have this effect or not is a moot question. Opinions differ considerably.

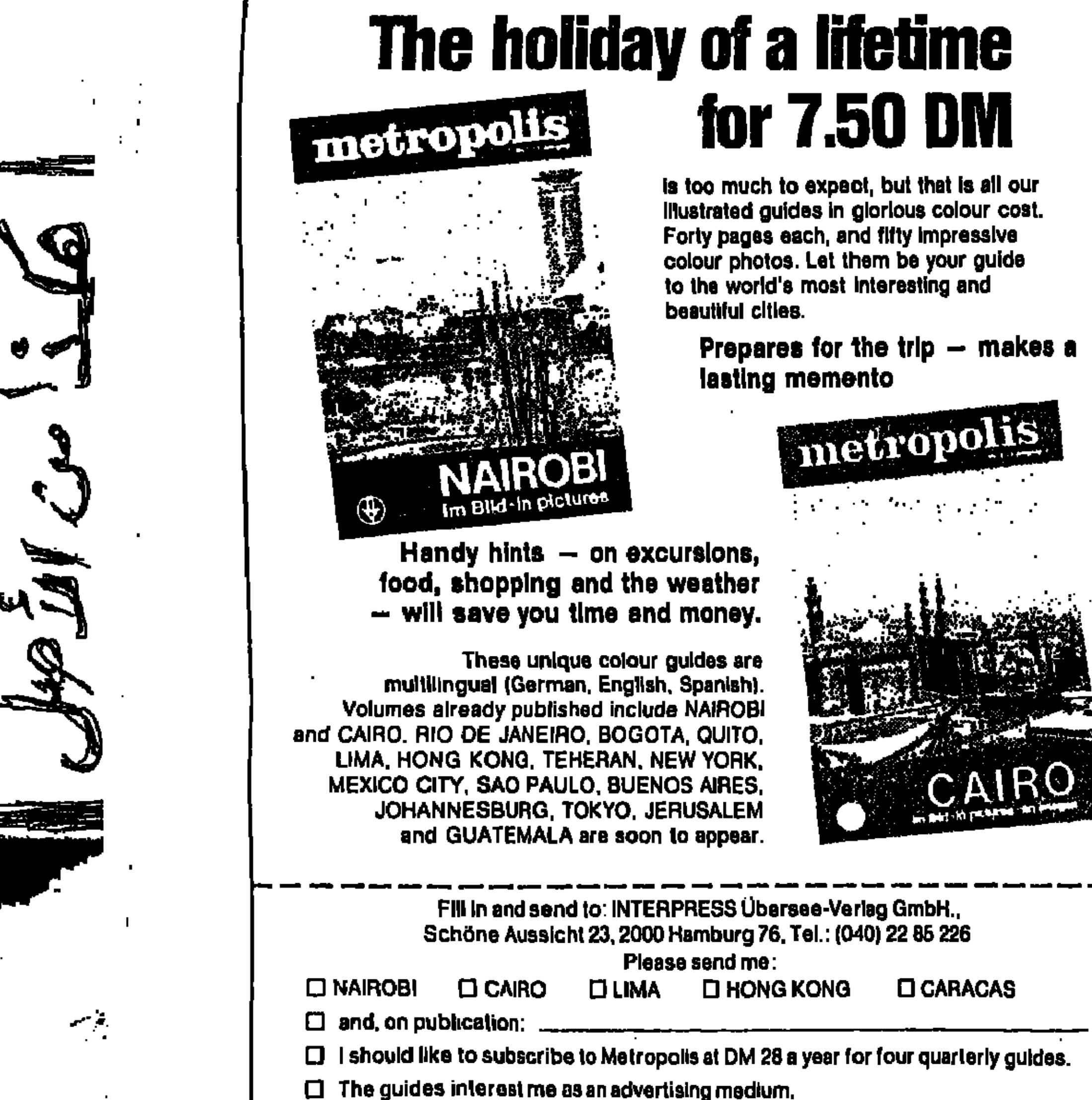
The brochure understandably but in my view mistakenly avoids citing positive or negative examples, thereby fostering a too uniformly positive view of children's hour, the dubious characteristics of which are ignored.

It is also based on the assumption that parents show common sense and are model examples for their children to follow. So if they and the children watch programmes together they should be able to discuss them and develop a deliberate and critical view of TV.

But how can you teach what you are none too good at practising? The brochure would have done well not to have got straight down to business.

Instead it should have devoted an in-

Continued on page 13



■ MEDICINE

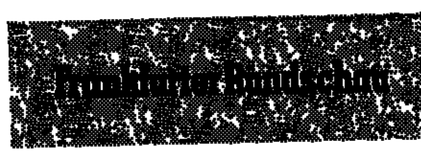
Need for tumour centres backed up by cancer data bank

Tumour centres need to be established and they must be backed up by a cancer data bank, a speaker said at a cancer congress in Munich.

Professor Manfred Steinbach, of the Bonn Health Ministry, told delegates that the main obstacle to establishing a data bank was data-abuse legislation.

Standardised procedures were needed in cancer research, in treatment, in early diagnosis and in prevention.

But this could not be achieved with-



out agreement between politicians and representatives of the various fields of medicine.

And so far, said Professor Steinbach, there were considerable problem at all levels.

There were widely differing views at the congress on how a nation-wide treatment system should be established.

It seems that the establishment of 15 tumour centres spread nation wide with a capacity of 3,000 to 3,500 new patients a year will remain utopian for the time being. This is so not only because of the enormous cost but also because of the virtual impossibility of finding the staff.

A project explained by Professor Axel Georgii, pathologist at the Hanover Medical School, is already in progress.

Professor Georgii, who is the secretary-general of the German Cancer Society and has been suspected of nationalisation tendencies in medicine because of his unorthodox views, pins his hopes on therapy records and schedules.

These would be binding treatment schedules worked out by many specialists and would govern diagnosis and therapy.

Some records and schedules have already been worked out and are now being evaluated by a committee of 16 experts. Their release and general use now depends on approval by the Bonn Ministry for Research and Technology, expected to be this summer.

The records and schedules will then be forwarded to the various hospitals handling cancer cases and will be binding for the doctors as a kind of checklist.

This is to prevent mistakes and omissions due to lack of experience or specialised knowledge and enable the patient to get treatment near his home.

The programme would require three to four highly specialised tumour centres. One of their tasks, Professor Georgii said, would be to forward the knowledge and insight gained to other hospitals.

But this cannot be done without a selective and time-consuming instruction of doctors outside the centres. As a result, several medical schools have been holding special seminars for this purpose.

Moreover, additional funds are needed to enable hospitals to follow the treatment schedule.

The objective of this complicated procedure is to tackle the cancer problem on a broad basis and to improve preventive measures and early diagnosis.

Figures in this respect are still bleak: fewer than 35 per cent of women and 20 per cent of men make use of free preventive checkups. But once a tumour has grown to a size that will make it noticeable it has usually produced metastases, making for a poorer prognosis.

The relatively uncomplicated procedure for the early diagnosis of cervical cancer has already had its effects. This type of cancer is diminishing and prospects of a cure are good.

Not so with prostate cancer in men and breast cancer in women. In both instances early diagnosis is still uncertain and the therapy is usually radical surgery imposing considerable hardship on the patient.

Apart from tumour centres and preventive cancer diagnosis, breast cancer was therefore one of the most important issues at the Congress. The radical mastectomy, as practised only a few years ago, is now considered obsolete.

Views on how far a surgeon should go in the case of breast cancer differ widely.

Some doctors warned against the "fashionable trend" to save the breast at any cost. This, they said, is a "reaction to going overboard in the other direction."

There is no spectacular solution to the cancer problem. Progress in the wide field between preventive care, early diagnosis, treatment, postoperative care and rehabilitation can only be achieved in small steps, the Munich Congress summed up. Cooperation between all disciplines is essential.

Helga Beyersdörfer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 March 1980)

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troductory chapter to parental viewing patterns so as to teach adults a more critical viewpoint on the subject.

TV need not be condemned out of hand any more than it need be swallowed hook, line and sinker. There is a golden mean at which we can teach both ourselves and our children to be interested parties, not mere consumers, and beneficiaries, not victims.

Yet parents and educationalists cannot but be warmly recommended to read the brochure.

Reading it is well worth while, even if only for the basic tenet that children should not be left to their own devices, either literally or figuratively, with the TV set.

Manfred Delling

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 16 March 1980)

Survival rate grows for skin disease victims

Between 50 and 60 per cent of people who get melanoma, the most dangerous of the skin cancers, are still alive five years after becoming afflicted.

This rate shows an improvement, but not as much as in Australia, where the five-year survival rate is now 80 per cent.

Considerable therapeutic progress had been made in the past few years, delegates to a symposium in Erlangen, Bavaria, heard.

Forecasts concerning the course of the disease are becoming more accurate and survival chances greatly improved.

The fate of the patient depends not only on the stage of the disease when it is diagnosed, but is greatly affected by initial treatment. Mistakes there can reduce the prospects of a cure dramatically, Professor F.P. Gall of the Surgical University Clinic in Erlangen told the symposium.

Unlike with other malignant tumours, the "in-transit metastases" in melanoma take place in the lymph ducts between the tumour and the lymph nodes which are very hard to remove by surgery.

Original attempts to improve the prospects of a cure by amputation of the affected limb were disappointing and have been discontinued.

Due to improved histological analysis of tissues, the biological process in the individual melanoma and hence the therapy applied have become more calculable.

Decisive criteria in this connection are the diameter of the tumour and the depth to which it has penetrated the skin.

In addition, the extent to which metastases have affected the lymph nodes and other organs and age and sex of the patient play a major role.

Forecasts for melanoma on the torso are more unreliable than those for other parts of the body.

Doctors agree that there is a considerable danger in any kind of restraint in the handling of melanoma. Professor Davis of the Surgery Department of the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane: "It's a lot better to have a large scar than a small gravestone."

Melanomas are therefore cut out with a safety margin of five centimetres all around.

At the Erlangen University Clinic, melanomas are bombarded with high X-ray doses of between 4,000 and 6,000 röntgen immediately before surgery to weaken the tumour cells.

The operation takes place within two hours to prevent the spreading of cancer cells. The very low relapse quota (5 per cent) is attributed to this treatment before surgery.

Much hope is now being pinned on local hyperthermic cytostatic perfusion, especially in cases of melanoma of the extremities with a penetration of more than 0.76 millimetres.

By blocking off the torso, doctors can use very high doses of cytostatics without this having a negative effect on the body as a whole. In addition, the warming of the affected limb to 45 deg. C destroys further tumour cells. This in turn prevents melanoma cells from reaching the lymph nodes, thus reducing the risk of metasteses.

The risks and side effects of this treatment, which depend greatly on the duration of perfusion, temperature and dosage of cytostatics, can be reduced as doctors gather experience. No major complications occurred in the last 50 perfusions carried out in Erlangen, Dr J. Tonak of the University Clinic told the audience.

The three-year survival rate among the 129 patients thus treated in Erlangen is 96 per cent compared with 72 per cent for those who receive no perfusion treatment.

Results have also improved in the therapy of patients where metastasis has affected the lymph nodes.

The University Clinic of Groningen, Holland, has achieved five-year survival rates of 78 per cent among its 110 patients with severe melanoma. There, too, the experience was that perfusion delays relapses.

In cases of severe tumours on the torso, doctors recommend the removal of lymph nodes in the vicinity. In Erlangen, 31 per cent of the patients where the melanoma has penetrated the subcutaneous fat tissues were found to have had previously undiscovered secondary tumours in the lymph nodes; and the number of lymph node metastases has a major effect on the prospects of a cure.

So far as immunotherapy is concerned, doctors feel that it is better to do everything in order to achieve something.

In any event, none of this type of treatment has so far been predictable concerning its results and doctors have not yet established whether it has any positive results at all.

Since the patient's immunological system has a major effect on the prognosis, this type of therapy is aimed at stimulating the system.

The most frequently used method is the injection of the tuberculosis vaccine BCG which, though not increasing the rate of cures, seems to extend the period during which the patient has no further tumours.

A final assessment is not yet possible, however.

Another local immunological stimulant is DNCB, an explosive widely used in industry which has been found to have curative properties in cases of skin metastases and primary tumours and has been used very successfully.

Chemotherapy, which imposes a considerable burden on the patient and has so far not proved very satisfactory, is reserved for the late stages of the disease.

Still, a combination of drugs has been successful to some extent in 40 per cent of cases. Chemotherapy also provides some pain relief in bone metastases.

Considering the dramatic increase in the number of melanoma cases — in the US state of Connecticut by 600 per cent between 1935 and 1976 — early diagnosis is most likely to prove instrumental in the prospects of a cure.

Anja Falan

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 March 1980)

■ MODERN LIVING

Phantom firm keeps its staff on their toes

Umweltschutz Oberberg GmbH, or Usog for short, is a flourishing company. It was set up in February 1978 in Engelskirchen, near Cologne, and its turnover has consistently and rapidly increased.

It currently employs a staff of 25, boasts the latest in office computers and plans, finances, manufactures and markets invironmental conservation and solar engineering at home and abroad.

What is special about the company is that it sells articles that do not really exist, conducts one imaginary business transaction after another and even resorts to the bailiff to ensure, despite the non-delivery of goods that do not, when all is said and done, exist that the sum invoiced is credited to its Bundespost giro account in Arolsen, near Kassel.

Now and again personnel managers of other companies come to Engelskirchen and hire Usog staff on the spot even though they sell goods that lead only an imaginary existence.

Bergisch Gladbach labour exchange has no objection to this staff pilferage by outside companies. The trade unions are quite happy with this arrangement too.

The secret is that Umweltschutz Oberberg GmbH, unlike the companies whose personnel managers call round, is a bogus firm, one of 135 sham companies all over the country tht combine to make up a "practice economy."

The 25 members of staff who turn up punctually at half past seven every morning are in reality unemployed, and their work at a mock company bankrolled by the labour exchanged and run by the trade union vocational training scheme is designed to help them keep their hands in and interest prospective employers.

From manager to office boy (mostly young German migrants from the East bloc countries who are here taught how the free market economy functions) everyone draws a salary remitted to a personal cheque account at the Arolsen national giro.

With this money they can buy a car, pay for holidays, repay mortages and remit insurance premiums. But they cannot make a cash withdrawal and blue in the money at the nearest bar.

The reason is that the salary is only a practice salary, just as the national giro, the car dealer from whom the car was bought, the travel agent with whom the holiday was booked and the estate agent from whom the house was bought are all make-believe.

The imaginary economy has a growth rate that the real economy can but dream of, and mock companies are mostly, but not entirely, run by trade union vocational training schemes.

Some are run by private companies that run them like private schools, the cash being provided by the labour exchange, which also provides the staff, recruited from the following categories of unemployed:

- Older white-collar workers who look like being out of work some time and stand to benefit from gaining an acquaintanceship with modern organisation and working methods.
- Qualified commercial staff without practical career experience who are taught to put their theoretical knowledge into practice.
- Young clerical workers with little or no career experience.
- Germans from East bloc countries who have yet to learn how the economic system works in the West.
- Staff who want or need to be reintegrated in their careers, such as housewives who plan to go back to work after a break to bring up children.

They all spend nine or ten months at their imaginary firm working a 40-hour week in which theory, practice, stages spent getting to know themselves and intervals of clerical routine experience alternate.

In addition to make-believe salaries they also draw 80 per cent of their previous take-home pay as special unemployment benefit.

Their prospects of finding a job are higher than would otherwise be the case. They are awarded diplomas and their company in Engelskirchen enjoys a good reputation.

Usog, senior instructors Norbert Siepe and Gudrun Väth proudly claim, has so far been able to find permanent employment for 82 per cent of its graduate staff.

Make-believe companies in West Germany are affiliated to a central pool with regional headquarters in Essen and Heidelberg.

Headquarters houses the make-believe tax offices, health insurance schemes, labour exchanges and customs and excise departments that make up a complete make-believe economic system.

Headquarters staff are not unemployed, however. They are full-time labour exchange officers and the like who are trained to run a one-man imaginary tax office, labour exchange or customs department of their own.

The make-believe labour appeals tribunal in Dortmund is not run by unemployed lawyers either. It too is run as a sideline by legal staff with the trade union vocational training scheme.

After hours, as it were, they run an imaginary local authority law department, a trade registry office and land registry and handle the legal side of correspondence with the bailiff.

The climax of the make-believe economy's year is the annual trade fair. Last year 136 imaginary companies, including similar ventures from Siwtzerland, Sweden, Austria and Namibia, were represented by trade fair stands at Essen.

The course at a make-believe firm does more than provide or bolster career qualifications, claims chief instructor Siepe. It also lends psychiatric and moral support and gives the jobless a feeling of success.

Promotion is possible during the course. The manager of the Engelskirchen company, for instance, is currently a qualified industrial and bank officer who was out of work for four months and has worked his way up to the top at Umweltschutz Oberberg GmbH.

He holds power of attorney for the company and part of his work involves dealing with the make-believe works council.

He can obviously not expect to find a genuine job in a comparable position when he leaves the training scheme, which is doubtless a wrench for many in his position.

What is more, on completion of the course he will have to make way for others regardless whether he has been placed or not.

This is a further psychological problem. The demand for make-believe jobs is so great that not everyone can stay until he definitely has a genuine job lined up.

After months or years of unemployment and several months with Umweltschutz Oberberg GmbH he may possibly find himself back among the unemployed.

Neighbours often have no idea that the new job is only a sham and when he is "fired" again the disgrace is twofold, especially as a man or woman who has just regained career confidence may well feel doubtly frustrated.

So the atmosphere at the Engelskirchen open-plan office of Umweltschutz Oberberg GmbH is a little eerie, at least for the outsider.

A staff of 25 men and women go through the motions of handling the clerical operations of a trading and manufacturing company yet cannot allow themselves to fall foul of the make-believe.

The borderline between illusion and reality must be borne in mind. A white-collar worker with a make-believe firm once used company letterheads to order goods from a genuine firm, payable from the company account at the make-believe bank.

He was promptly fired before ever being hired — in the real working world, that is.

Michael Wesener

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 March 1980)



A normal day at work: a make-believe office with a purpose (Photo: Wesener)

Many adults still cannot read or write

Adult illiteracy is more wide[spread] than most people would ever [imag]ine. Statisticians have no idea of its extent.

Legally and bureaucratically [there] should be no such thing as illiteracy [in] Germany, says a spokesman for [the] Bonn Education Ministry, pointing [out] that education has been compulsory since the 19th century.

Yet rough estimates dismissed by [the] authorities as mere speculation [still] have it that between 500,000 [and] 1,000,000 adult West Germans can [nei]ther read nor write.

"No-one can say how high the [real] number is," the spokesman admits. [Edu]cation Minister Jürgen Schmude [has] called on his staff to compile facts [and] figures.

The Ministry's first move has been [to] commission a report on adult illiteracy from the Berlin working party on [voca]tional guidance and educational [assis]tance.

The report is to bear in mind the [fin]dings of educationalist Marie-Luise [Os]wald, who has written a degree thesis [on] the subject.

She conducted a survey of 70 students at an adult literacy course run by [the] Berlin working party and discovered [that] illiterates are usually past masters [at] concealing their shortcoming.

"But men and women with careers [in] particular," she writes, "live in fear [and] trembling of being found out."

Case histories show that even men who run trade companies as electricians, plumbers and the like may be illiterates who for years have managed to [gloss] over their inability to scrawl more [than] a signature.

They have dealt with the practical management of the firm, leaving white-collar workers to look after the books. There have even been cases in which [a] wife never knew her husband could [not] read or write.

Marie-Luise Oswald's findings reveal that illiteracy is a consequence of leaving school with poor grades in German and later having little opportunity or experience of making good this particular failing.

The little German they managed [to] learn to read and write at school atrophies, and often the only ability they retain is to sign their names.

Adult illiteracy first hit the headlines when evening classes were held in Bremen a few years ago to enable migrant workers to learn basic German.

Yet the course was attended not [by] Turks and Yugoslavs, but by people Bremen born and bred. Radio Bremen stepped in and publicised the courses.

But there is an anxiety threshold [that is] by no means easy to overcome. Most [il]literates are ashamed of and reluctant [to] admit to their inability.

Frau Oswald reports that the problem has been recognised in other European countries too, several of which run adult literacy courses.

In Britain, for instance, a scheme [was] launched more than two years ago, [with] special courses to help the illiterate [and] partly literate to learn to read and write.

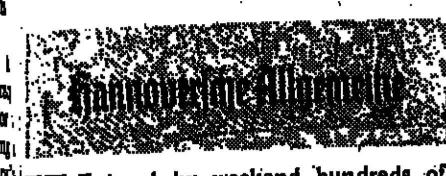
A similar campaign is in progress [in] Holland, and although France officially is zero-rated for illiteracy, education officials there likewise admit to having come across the phenomenon.

Rainer H. Popp/dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 March 1980)

■ SPORT

The difficult lot of the man with the whistle



Weekend by weekend hundreds of thousands of referees keep soccer, handball, basketball and dozens of other sports going. Yet they are often seen as scapegoats by spectators, players and officials.

A referee's lot is not a happy one. Criticism is rife, praise infrequent. So why do so many people go in for whistling?

To what influences are they subjected? How do they see their role? These are some of the questions asked and answered in a survey of more than 100 referees, the first ever published.

A thick-skinned corps of 40,000 soccer referees is barracked from the stands and terraces and criticised by sports reporters week after week.

The soccer referee's job is neither particularly attractive nor unduly lucrative. It gives rise to more trouble than kudos, yet is vital for the running of a game played by millions of men and women every week.

Black Mafia is one of the friendlier terms of abuse levelled at the men in black. They take a verbal hounding every time they supervise a game and need not only a thick skin but also, more often than not, a deaf ear.

"Referees," says Walter Eschweiler, a Bundesliga soccer referee from Bonn, "are a necessary evil."

Dieter Berner levelled tough accusations at the men in black only a matter of weeks after retiring from whistling himself. One of his more harmless accusations was that favouritism and nepotism, not performance, were the criteria for membership of the select band of three dozen referees who handle Bundesliga fixtures.

Dirk Albrecht, who runs training courses for the Westphalian Football and Amateur Athletics Association, did not attach much importance to Berner's attack.

It was, he said, merely sour grapes on the part of a referee who had forfeited his privileges by being downgraded to a Grade II ref and could not take the ignominy.

Yet Herr Albrecht, who conducted the survey of 128 referees, reckons Herr Berner's accusations are understandable, if not necessarily true.

He took a closer look at Bundesliga and senior graded soccer referees in Westphalia only, but his survey may fairly be claimed to cover a representative cross-section.

Referees were found to have a surprisingly high opinion of themselves. Asked to assess their own performance in terms of school grades, not one gave himself a 4, or unsatisfactory.

There were no 5s or 6s either, and Herr Albrecht noted a characteristic discrepancy among the 1s to 3s:

"Few Bundesliga referees rate themselves Grade I, but a substantial number of amateur referees reckon they are the cat's whiskers."

This elite view of their role and performance is naturally due to the way they are taught to see themselves right from the outset of referee training.

Johannes Malka describes in the Referees' Manual the attributes the man in the middle, handling an unpredictable game and subject to the whims of the crowd, must have:

"Strength of character, courage, determination, a sense of duty, an understanding of people are but a handful of the qualities that go toward making a universally acknowledged and respected referee."

Self-confidence is indeed a necessity in front of a large crowd. The survey revealed that referees are much more prone than others to respond to acoustic influences.

Herr Albrecht investigated the phenomenon using a special device to test reactions. Referees were told to perform specified tasks when they took stock of acoustic or optical signals.

The acoustic signal was found to be much more effective than optical ones, the point being amply proved by reaction times and margins of error.

On the pitch and at the ground acoustic stress is caused by catcalls, booing and barracking, and they are quantifiably effective.

In Bundesliga soccer three out of four penalties are awarded in favour of the home team, whereas three out of four dismissals are of members of the visiting team.

These are facts that referees' societies are reluctant to disclose to a wider public. The view of refereeing they would like to foster is somewhat different.

A film entitled The 23rd Man has been made by the soccer referees' society in Württemberg. Intended as a means of recruiting newcomers to the referees' guild, it naturally emphasises the sunnier side of their work.

But only with a pinch of salt could it possibly be said to be at all accurate in its portrayal of the whistler's work.

Yet the men in black are by no means as bad as their reputation, the survey showed. Eight out of 10 were found to have greater powers of concentration than the average for a test group of non-referees.

Response training showed that the margin of error among referees with quick reactions was much lower than among those who were slow to respond.

Dirk Albrecht's conclusion was that "reaction training must form a much more intensive part of a referee's schooling."

The referee's physical fitness is the other side of the coin. The men in black are usually expected to attend monthly meetings to discuss points of law.

But condition training and direct preparations for each individual game are a necessity too. By direct preparations Herr Albrecht means a sufficiently adequate period of peace and quiet before the game:

"A tired referee is often the best guarantee of a win for the home team."

Bernd Dassel

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 March 1980)

Bayern Munich footballer Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is shown the yellow warning card after an infringement. (Photo: Werek)

Dagmar quits

Dagmar Lurz, a 21-year-old Dortmund medical student, retired from competitive ice skating with a runner-up's medal at the world championships in her home town in the Ruhr. She turned down offers to turn professional, preferring to qualify as a doctor after a career on skates in which she won every honour but the highest at Olympics, world and European championships. She was Germany's most successful skater in 26 years. (Photo: Horstmüller)